

Egyptians opposed to war arrested

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group accused the government Saturday of clamping down illegally on opponents to the Gulf war. "Selective measures, such as military tribunals and imprisonment, have been directed against those opposed to the (Gulf) war, wishing to express their opinion," said a statement by the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR). Egypt, a key Arab member of the anti-Iraq alliance, has sent about 35,000 troops to the multinational force in the Gulf. Most Egyptians have backed President Hosni Mubarak's firm anti-Iraq stand but opposition leaders predict more people will turn against the war as fighting increases. "We note growing violation of human rights in Egypt since the Gulf crisis erupted... and fear an increase in such abuses as the circle of opponents to the war and Egypt's military participation widens," the EOHR statement added. It said several opposition leaders were illegally barred from leaving the country last year while two editors of opposition newspapers were being tried by military courts. About 500 people attended an anti-war meeting that day at the headquarters of the leftist Unionist Progressive Party.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية مستقلة تصدر باسم المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Volume 16 Number 4616

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1991, RAJAB 18, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraqis down 2 U.S. planes; fire missile at Israel

Israelis withhold site of attack

Combined agency dispatches

ONE MISSILE WAS fired Saturday from western Iraq at Israel and struck, but the army withheld the exact location.

"There has been one missile fired and one hit reported," army spokesman Nachman Shai told Israel Radio. "At this moment we are searching for the site of impact," he said. "As far as we know there have been no injuries or damage."

Brigadier-General Stai did not say in which area the missile landed nor whether the U.S.-supplied Patriot missile defence system was fired. Reporters in Tel Aviv, who have heard sound of the Patriots being fired in the past, said they heard no such noise Sunday.

Air raid sirens sounded throughout Israel at 8:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) indicating a possible attack. The alarm was announced on the radio at 9:07 p.m. (1907 GMT).

When the sirens sound, Israelis are ordered to don gas masks and enter sealed rooms to protect them from chemical attacks.

Some Israelis apparently have begun to get lax about taking cover, and Gen. Shai appealed on the radio for them not to go outside to try to see what was happening.

"Everyone who is standing on the roofs is endangering their lives," he said.

Iraq has repeatedly threatened to hit the Jewish-state with chemicals. Previous attacks all have involved conventional warheads.

There have been eight previous missile attacks aimed at the Jewish state since the start of the Gulf war Jan. 17. Two people were killed and two died of heart attacks in earlier barrages on the Tel Aviv area. At least 270 were wounded, and more than 1,300 apartments were damaged.

U.S.-supplied Patriot missiles have intercepted incoming Iraqi missiles on at least three occasions.

The last two missiles landed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, but caused no casualties and no serious damage.

The Patriots were not fired to defend against these attacks Jan. 28 and Jan. 31, and army officials asserted the region was outside the Patriots' area of coverage.

The strikes in the West Bank have raised criticism because the army has been slow to distribute gas masks to Palestinians.

(Continued on page 2)



A residential area hit in the allied bombardment at the southern Iraqi city of Basra (Photo by R. Hassan — Al Qadissiya)

Iraq vows to fight with everything it has

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ, SIX MONTHS to the day since its takeover of Kuwait, said Saturday it would fight with everything from knives to weapon of mass destruction in its war against the U.S.-led allied forces.

With its troops continuously pounced by a U.S.-led aerial bombardment, Iraq said that five tank thrusts into Saudi Arabia this week showed that it still held the initiative in the Gulf war.

"We would like to reiterate an established eternal fact: Iraq's leadership, army, and people will not relinquish their country from Zakhru to Kuwait," Iraq's Defense Ministry's Al Qadisiyah newspaper said.

"For the sake of this noble legitimate objective... we will use all force and arms in our possession, beginning with the knife and bullets, arms of annihilation, and ending with the weapons of mass destruction, because nothing deserves to live after Iraq," the paper added.

Iraq has yet carried out its threats to use chemical weapons in the Gulf war.

Al Qadisiyah said Iraq's threats into Saudi Arabia showed it still

held the initiative in the Gulf war and that the U.S.-led allied forces had no choice but to go into a ground battle.

"Despite imperialist, barbaric attack Iraq still holds the reins of power on the battlefield."

"The allied invasion forces are left with no choice but to fight the ground war-and-come face to face with the Iraqi army, a confrontation they have tried to avoid repeatedly," Al Qadisiyah said.

It said Iraq would make the battlefield "a place for a real massacre, and we will not give them the opportunity to remove their dead from the pools of blood in which they will float."

Al Qadisiyah said U.S. President George Bush was deluded if he imagines bombardment will cause Iraq to capitulate.

"We will accept nothing other than victory because it is the sole reality which bound to guarantee our people's life and the honour and dignity of Iraq and the Arab Nation," the newspaper said.

Pentagon officials said Iraqi troops in Kuwait were still an effective fighting force despite the allied air assault.

"We have not written off the Iraqi army as a fighting force. We respect it," said army Lieutenant-General Tom Kelly, chief of joint operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

President Bush said he would not allow Iraq to stampede him into a premature and potentially blood ground campaign.

Mr. Bush also consoled the

wives and children of airmen downed by Iraq and promised families of front-line infantry troops that a ground war will "only begin if necessary and when we decide the time is right."

"We will conduct this conflict on our terms, on our timetable, not on Saddam Hussein's timetable," Mr. Bush said before a flag-waving audience composed mostly of families of members of the 24th infantry brigade mechanized, now on duty in the Gulf.

With more than 500,000 Americans deployed overseas, Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one with three children, the other with two — in which both the father and mother were serving in the Gulf.

Mr. Bush told the families at home, "I know it's been tough, it may get tougher." He cited two families at Fort Stewart — one

Middle East News

Palestinians hungry for news on Gulf war

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED WEST BANK — Like everywhere in the Middle East, radios in the West Bank are constantly tuned to news of the Gulf war.

By day, the Palestinians listen to Iraqi or Jordanian stations broadcasting depictions of Iraq's steadfast resistance to the U.S.-led alliance.

As dusk falls the dial turns to Israeli Radio, which broadcast the air raid sirens whenever Iraq lobbs a missile at Israel.

An Iraqi Scud missile whizzed over Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank Thursday, tracing a red streak through the rain and exploding with a harmless flash in an open field.

Israeli military censorship prohibited giving the location of the impact or other details that might permit Iraq to adjust the aim of its missiles.

It was the second time a missile fell short of Tel Aviv and landed in the West Bank, where one million Palestinians live.

The first rocket also caused no casualties, but the two incidents have tempered the Palestinians' support for Iraq with a fear of falling accidental victims to Iraq's attacks.

"Of course we are afraid. Next time it could hit our village. Why not?" said Khalid, a truck driver who was waiting at an Israeli

roadblock Friday while soldiers tramped through mud looking for where the missile landed the night before.

"I go to Tel Aviv every day at four in the morning to pick up goods. Do you think my wife isn't afraid? She tells me I should wait until daylight."

The Gulf war began like a ray of hope for the Palestinians, who were frustrated by the political impasse that continues in spite of their three-year uprising against Israel's occupation.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held out a promise of movement, however, when he tried to link the Arab-Israeli conflict with the Gulf crisis.

"When the crisis started everyone bought a new radio. We are listening all the time. We even sleep with the radio on," said Hosni Nafah, a bank employee.

"We listen to radio Monte Carlo, to Jordan, to Iraq, to the BBC, to Israel. This one lies about that one and that one lies about the other one. We don't know what's going on," he said.

In the meantime, expectations have faded that the Gulf war will bring any changes for the Palestinians.

"It's been the same since 1948... the year Israel was created and the Arabs and Israelis fought their first of five wars," said Nafah. "All talk, but nobody does anything. Power can do whatever it wants," he said.

Libya sends implicit warning to Turkey

ROME (Agencies) — Libya, saying it was disappointed about the stand of "sisterly Islamic" Turkey, has expressed hope it would become neutral in the Gulf war, the official Libyan news agency reported.

Turkey, a NATO-member country, has been letting U.S. warplanes use its bases to stage bombing attacks on Iraq.

Despite the keenness of Libya for relations with Turkey, "it cannot ignore the stance of the Turkish government towards the war going on in the Gulf region, which is a stance that was not expected from a sisterly Islamic state and that would lead to fanning the war," the JANA news agency quoted a foreign ministry official as saying.

"All that we expect from Turkey is to reconsider its stance towards the destructive war in the Gulf and whatever positive change in this situation happens, then it will be understandable from our side even if that was no more than taking the stance of 'neutrality,'" the ministry official was quoted as saying.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has repeatedly condemned both Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the U.S.-led military operations in the Gulf.

Protests in Turkey

Riot police using nightsticks broke up an anti-war demonstration Friday by hundreds leaving Friday prayers, witnesses reported.

Some fighting broke out between the police and the demonstrators, but there were no reported injuries. Witnesses said at least 10 people were arrested.

The unauthorised demonstration, involving about 400 people, began after a group of men left Beyazit mosque, near the Istanbul University area in the heart of the city. The group marched onto the main street and gathered supporters.

The crowd then pushed past a police cordon and shouted anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans. Police began hitting the demonstrators with nightsticks.

The protest was similar to anti-war demonstrations staged for

the past two weeks in Istanbul and several other Turkish cities following Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, a "call for peace" march scheduled to be staged Saturday in Istanbul by eight opposition parties was ordered postponed for two months by the governor's office.

The opposition protested the order and said, in a statement, that 90 per cent of the population was against Turkey's entering a war against Iraq.

A Turkish government official said Friday Turkey would expect support from its NATO allies in proportion to the size of any Iraqi attack.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Turkey itself will consider retaliation depending on the nature of the attack.

The official indicated that Turkey's air force is capable of responding to an Iraqi missile or aerial attack but if a possible confrontation widens, involving ground troops, NATO's aid would be requested.

U.S. warplanes taking off from Incirlik air base in Turkey have been bombing Iraq since the start of the war.

Offering an example, the official said if the Incirlik air base, which is Turkish territory, is hit the response would be different from the case of two Iraqi Scud missiles falling in an empty field near Diyarbakir, the major city in Turkey's southeastern region bordering Iraq.

So far, this message has not been followed by any Iraqi attack against Turkey. And Turks are pretty confident that Iraq will not attack Turkey, while most of its military power is engaged against the U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf.

Turkey's stance, emphasising "proportional response," appeared aimed at reassuring NATO allies, in particular Germany, that they will not be sucked into a Mideast war at the first sign of Iraqi attack against Turkey.

"There are various scenarios and responses according to them," said the high-level official.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. to decide on Iraqi request

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations will decide next week whether it is safe to send U.N. personnel into Iraq to determine whether the war-stricken nation needs humanitarian aid, officials said Friday. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet Monday with James Grant, the director of the U.N. Children's Fund, and throughout the week with senior officials of the World Health Organisation and other relief agencies, said U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani. In response to an Iraqi request for relief aid, the two agencies said last week that they would look into the situation as soon as they could safely send staff members to Iraq. Iran has asked the Security Council's sanctions committee for permission to send food aid, mainly powdered milk and infant formula, to Iraqi civilians. Distribution of the aid would be supervised by the Iranian Red Crescent, that country's equivalent of the Red Cross. The sanctions committee said it needed a determination from the secretary-general on whether Iraq required assistance.

Hanoi newspaper: Bush wants to rule Gulf

HANOI (R) — Nhan Dan, the official newspaper of Vietnam's Communist Party, said Saturday Washington's aims in the Gulf war were to seize control of the oil-rich region and eradicate Iraq's military might. "The United States' target is not only to liberate of Kuwait but... also to exterminate the Iraqi administration, military strength and President Saddam Hussein himself," it said in the strongest attack on the United States since the war broke out. Nhan Dan's coverage of the Gulf fighting has been generally neutral. The government, which says it is neutral in the war, has urged both sides to seek peace. "The second U.S. target in this war is to control the oil-rich area in the Gulf, which produces more than 30 per cent of the world oil output, in order to manipulate Japan and its Western European allies which depend on Gulf oil," the daily added.

Iraq criticises India

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Saturday that India should abandon its "unfriendly course" and not allow any more U.S. transport planes, being used in the allied Gulf war effort, to refuel in Bombay. "We received with great surprise and regret the report that Indian authorities allowed 38 U.S. C-141 planes to refuel at Bombay airport under the flimsy pretext that these planes are not carrying weapons or destructive equipment, but are used for humanitarian purposes," a Foreign Ministry statement said. "While we reject this unfriendly course followed by the Delhi authorities, we also reject the pretext given and demand the Indian government should not repeat such behaviour," said the statement, broadcast by Baghdad Radio monitored in Cyprus. It said India's "behaviour... completely contradicts the non-aligned policy of India, one of the founding countries of the Non-Aligned Movement." India is trying to bring together leading members of the 102-nation Non-Aligned Movement to formulate a peace initiative on the Gulf war which started on Jan. 17. "What kind of humanitarian task is this that is carried out by the U.S. planes of death? Is the killing of innocents and the shelling of civilian, economic, religious, educational, and health centres listed under the conditions of humanity?" the Iraqi statement said.

Belgium denies ransom report

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium Saturday denied a report it paid a top Palestinian guerrilla \$3 million on ransom when he visited Brussels hours before the Gulf war began. The Flemish daily Het Laatste Nieuws, quoting "a foreign ministry source," said a senior diplomat gave 100 million francs (\$3.3 million) to Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) spokesman Walid Khaled following the release of a Belgian family held hostage since 1987. "Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens formally denies the report according to which 100 million francs were paid as a ransom for the release of the Houdekis family," the Foreign Ministry said in a terse statement. The scandal over Mr. Khaled, detained by Brussels police after he was spotted in the city's main square on Jan. 16, has deeply embarrassed Belgium's coalition government.

S. African Muslims want to aid Iraq

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — A Muslim group has asked the government for permission to transfer 2 million rand (\$800,000) to an overseas bank to help Iraq. The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) reported. A spokesman for the group told the SABC that international sanctions imposed against Iraq after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait had led to rampant disease and malnutrition. He said the money would be used to provide food and baby milk for Iraqis. There was no immediate government comment on the request, which would require approval from the South African foreign exchange. The government has supported the U.S.-led alliance fighting Iraq and offered use of its air bases and harbours to U.S. planes and ships.

Police detain Syrian after fire

MASSA, Italy (R) — Police said they detained a Syrian Friday on suspicion of being the man who claimed responsibility for a fire at a northern Italian port this week. Police did not give the man's name but said he was aged 29 and came from Damascus. He had lived for several months near the north-west Italian port of Massa and worked for local marble quarries. Thursday's fire destroyed more than 1,000 tonnes of engine oil and other goods in storage tanks at Massa and halted port operations. The Italian news agency ANSA reported that a man speaking with a foreign accent telephoned its Florence office, claimed responsibility for the fire and threatened other attacks.

AFP to sue Pentagon

PARIS (R) — The French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) said Friday it was taking legal action in the United States against the Pentagon for excluding it from U.S. Defence Department press pools. An AFP statement quoted the agency's lawyer, Joshua Kaufman, as saying a denial of access to the pools breached the first amendment of the American constitution guaranteeing freedom of expression. "We intend to seek temporary and permanent injunction against the DoD (Department of Defence), enjoining them from continuing to illegally bar AFP from its pools and denying them access to pool materials," Mr. Kaufman said. AFP said it was currently being denied access to news pictures of the Gulf war from DoD pools in Saudi Arabia. "AFP has sought access to these pools for several years and has been denied. No reason has ever been provided. There are no standards or criteria for pool participation. The decisions are arbitrarily made without any avenue for appeal or recourse," the statement said.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 14. Humidity readings: Amman 85 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Bassam Karakcheh 796310
Dr. Rizq Al-Zein (—)
Dr. Munther Oubrane 776258
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638591
Fire pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 779336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 629055
Nairoothi pharmacy 629172
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 7
Aqaba 9 / 16
Deserts 2 / 12
Jordan Valley 10 / 15

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630841
Rescue 630841
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 721111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228

CORPORATIONS

Al-Khalil 634945
Shmeisani 637660

IRBD: Dr. Mohammad Saeed (—)
Al Sharas' pharmacy 27525

ZARQA: Dr. Khalid Abu Husein (—)
Khalifchi pharmacy 985417

AMMAN: Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 775121
Highway Police 843462
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630331
Hotel Complaints 605881
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hashem Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity Aman 644281/6
Akhlaq Maternity 644282
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Mahfas J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-University Hospital 648845
Al-Ma'arid Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic Hospital 664164/7
Al-Ahli Abdali 664164/6
Rajhi Jordan 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power Company 636381

QUEEN ALIA HOSPITAL: Complaints 602240/50
Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 091991071
Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732

DATES: Eggplant 500 / 400
Garlic 200 / 160

AOABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 400
Banana 500 / 400

Onion (green) 180 / 120
Okra 600 / 500

Orange 450 / 300

Pepper (red) 300 / 250

Pepper (sweet) 160 / 100

Potato 250 / 200

Radish 100 / 50

Tomato 150 / 100

King Hassan warns pro-Iraqis

VIENNA (R) — Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres said Friday he still hopes for peace talks with Palestinians despite guerrilla rocket attacks in the Jewish state's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"I do hope that there will be courageous Palestinian leaders who will come up and say the time has come to sit down and make peace because I believe the Palestinian problem cannot be solved by missiles or bombs," Mr. Peres told a news conference.

Mr. Peres said the attacks drove even the most moderate Israeli politicians to the conclusion that it had been a mistake to support peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which Palestinians regard as their sole representative.

"Those who in the future criticise the presence of the Moroccan army in Saudi Arabia will have the law applied against them," King Hassan said. "The law is clear."

Moroccan law makes it a crime punishable by fines or imprisonment to criticise the presence of the army in a foreign country. Such criticism is thought to harm morale.

King Hassan stressed that the Moroccan contingent acts independently of other foreign forces in Saudi Arabia and is confined to a purely defensive position 55 kilometres from the combat area.

The address came hours after the National Committee for Solidarity with the Iraqi People, composed of trade unions and opposition parties, demanded that the troops be withdrawn.

The committee urged an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war, the withdrawal of all foreign troops, and nationwide campaigns to collect blood, medicine and food for Iraq.

The appeal was the latest in daily expressions of solidarity with Iraq by opposition parties and newspapers. The journal Al Alam on Friday urged Moroccans to boycott French goods.

Opposition snubs Pakistani premier

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's main opposition bloc boycotted a meeting called by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday to discuss the Gulf war, snubbing him for his anti-Iraq policy.

Mr. Sharif rejected their demands that Pakistan should withdraw its troops from the Gulf.

Mr. Sharif invited politicians to brief them about a Gulf peace mission he made to six Muslim countries last week. He told those who attended that Pakistan would keep its 11,000 troops in Saudi Arabia, where they are on the side of a U.S.-led multinational force trying to drive Iraq's army from Kuwait.

But the four-party Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDA), led by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, did not attend the meeting, saying it would serve no purpose.



volunteers to the People's Army come from all different walks of life (file photo)

Thousands volunteer to defend nation

By Samia Nakhou

Reuter

JMMAN — Artist Wassef Mwafi has laid down his brush and is learning to use a gun along with thousands of Jordanians who want to defend their country and, if possible, fight or defend Iraq.

"I feel threatened ... the war won't do me any good in war time. It won't defend me or defend my country," Mwafi, 35, said during a break in paramilitary training in Amman with Jordan's volunteer Popular Army.

Jordanian officials on Wednesday said 320,000 men and women had volunteered for the country's Popular Army since the Gulf crisis began on Aug. 2.

The volunteers, aged between 16 and 55, include doctors, engineers, lawyers, labourers and industrialists.

The Popular Army was founded in 1985 as a national defence force to back up the regular army in any attack on Jordan.

Its volunteer ranks have more than doubled since the

start of war between Iraq and U.S.-led forces, in a reflection of strong patriotic and Iraqi sentiment.

"People feel threatened, especially since all the countries surrounding Jordan are armed with sophisticated weapons and have fierce armies," Brigadier Ghazi Al Tayeb, commander of the People's Army, told Reuters.

He said he had been forced to quadruple the number of training courses to cope with the flood of volunteers since war started on Jan. 17 and keep up their "enthusiasm and drive."

The average was 10 sessions every two months now it is 30 sessions every month," Tayeb said. Volunteers were put on standby after they completed training but were not given guns.

Mwafi and his comrades, clad in brown army fatigues, are following a five-week course in civil defence, first aid and protection against chemical warfare.

As a back-up to the 100,000-man regular army, they also learn to use light and medium

weapons, dig trenches, fortify positions and guard government installations and buildings.

"What is happening now is an onslaught against our culture and civilisation. They (the allied forces) want to turn Baghdad into a graveyard. The West wants to be the master of this world and we refuse to be slaves," Mwafi said.

Talal Abu Rayala, a 40-year-old civil engineer and father of three, explained why he wanted to fight for Baghdad.

"If Iraq is defeated then we will all fall. There will be no security in Jordan, Syria, Egypt or any other Arab country ... there will be instability everywhere," he said.

Many Jordanians and Palestinians have also gone to Iraq's embassy in Amman, pleading to be taken to the war front.

"We want to become martyrs. We want to die. Why are you preventing us this honour?" Khaled Al Abadi asked an embassy official. "Every time I come here you tell me not yet ... when are you going to take us?"

Palestinians, who see Saddam as a champion of their rights, are also flocking to the Palestinian National Council (PNC) office in Amman to register to fight.

Hamdi Tabaa', head of a 20-man private committee raising funds for the People's Army, said his group had collected JD 150,000 (\$230,000) in under two weeks. Banks have also opened accounts for donations.

"There is not a single household in Jordan which is not doing something for Iraq. Everybody, despite different political affiliations, religion or class, is united in one thing — Iraq's victory and to defend Jordan," Tabaa' said.

Although most volunteers

were aware their military skills fell behind allied standards, they said the image that the United States and its allies were invincible had gone.

"A crushing war led by what they call the greatest power in the world has been going on for two weeks and Iraq is still resisting," said volunteer Ahmad Tabashat, a 42-year-old lawyer.

Queen Noor receives Japanese delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday received members of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party's group for evacuee relief who are currently visiting Jordan. The Queen briefed the delegation on the current situation of the evacuees and on the impact of the Gulf war on Jordan's economic and human development processes. Queen Noor also discussed with the Japanese groups ways to support Jordanian income-generating schemes and to help combat poverty and safeguard the health and nutritional status of women and children. The Queen expressed Jordan's appreciation of Japan's assistance to the Kingdom during these hard times. The meeting was attended by Japanese ambassador to Jordan Tadzuyuki Nonoyama, head of the evacuee welfare committee Salameh Hammad and Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Director General Imam Al Mutti.

Christian, Muslim leaders meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of Christian communities in Jordan Saturday voiced their keenness on cooperation with the government in matters designed to enhance the sense of national belonging and national unity, and lauded the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs efforts in this regard.

Bishop Salim Al Sayegh of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Elia Khouri of the Anglican Church and Monsignor Raouf Najar, representative of the Apostolic delegation in Jordan voiced their support for the ministry during a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Kilani.

They told the minister that they appreciated his mosque sermons

in which he advocated cohesion

among the Jordanian family and solid support for the Jordanian leadership.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the looming danger which threatens the existence of all Jordanians. They explored means of consolidating national unity and thwarting any attempt to cause splits within Jordanian ranks.

Earlier, Kilani chaired a meeting of mosque preachers and stressed the need to bolster and increase public awareness in spiritual and national unity matters in view of the crucial circumstances facing the Arab and Islamic nations.

Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan and the Kingdom's mufti were among those attending the meeting.

Algerian doctors arrive in Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 16 Algerian doctors arrived Saturday in Baghdad as a first batch of 400 Algerian physicians and specialists who have volunteered to offer medical assistance to the injured in Iraq as a result of the ongoing American-led aggression on the Arab country.

Earlier, doctors from Jordan, Tunisia and Palestine were sent to Iraq on the same humanitarian mission; and doctors from Libya and Morocco are expected to follow soon, according to the Amman-based Arab Doctors Union (ADU).

A spokesman for the ADU's health committee which is organising the missions said the union had earlier issued an appeal to all Arab states to send doctors and specialists to offer assistance to injured civilians in Iraq.

The spokesman said that the Iraqi national Red Crescent Society takes charge of the operations inside Iraq, distributing the volunteer doctors to various hospitals.

Upon their arrival in Amman en route to Baghdad Friday afternoon, the Algerian doctors expressed their readiness to do all they can to help the Iraqi people.

They all voiced absolute support for the Iraqis in their steadfastness and in repelling aggression on Iraqi territory; and said they felt it an honour to offer humanitarian assistance to their brothers and sisters now subjected to the U.S.-led aggression on the Arab Nation. The doctors denounced the stand of Arab states allied with U.S. and urged Arab doctors and nurses to offer assistance to the injured civilians.

Alawneh reviews agricultural policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh Saturday said the government was ready to deal with problems facing agricultural exports of vegetables and fruits and that efforts are continuing to open the way for importing imports certain products since competition would bring down the prices and benefit the consumers.

The minister was addressing a meeting held at the Amman central vegetable market attended by exporters and middlemen. He reviewed with them the export-import process and problems facing the merchants.

Discussion during the meeting also focused on the idea of confining the process of importing vegetables and other products to one corporation or company, but no decision was taken in this respect.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the exporters and middlemen proposed that they

be represented at meetings related to the agricultural sector so that their views could be taken into consideration. The minister promised to study the proposal.

Since the closure of Gulf Arab countries' markets in the face of Jordanian produce, the government has been seeking new markets in Africa and Europe. Most of the Jordan's agricultural products used to go to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait before the Gulf crisis began last August.

Alawneh was reported earlier to have said that his ministry was trying to help the local farmers market their milk and stressed that a ban on the importation of dried powdered milk that had been used in the dairy industry will continue.

The minister urged dairy plants to use the locally produced milk for increased production of cheese and yoghurt which can easily be marketed in the Kingdom.

Foreign wives decry aggression

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of foreign women married to Jordanians Saturday expressed their disgust at the continuing aggression on Iraq and said they were ashamed of their countries for launching aggression on an Arab country, killing innocent civilians.

The group of American, Australian and Italian women, some of whom had been to Baghdad and had witnessed the effects of raids on civilian targets, spoke to journalists at Amman Hotel, strongly denouncing the raids as a mad and outrageous aggression on civilians, and calling on the troops and pilots to refuse orders.

There are over 2,000 Vietnamese from both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city still in Iraq and their embassy there has remained open to care for them said the refugees. Vietnamese nurses hope to get back home before Feb. 15, the Vietnamese new year's day.

The majority of Americans would be against this war should they have access to the real losses and the facts from an uncensored press, Mrs. Budeir asserted. She expressed deep sorrow for the American troops blood being shed to satisfy the desires of a handful of politicians and capitalists, and described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a brave man who stood up to the conspiracy aimed at humiliating the Iraqi people.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

Royal Jordanian Flight Schedule

Sunday 3/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
VIENNA	04:00 p.m.
PARIS	04:50 p.m.
LONDON	05:40 p.m.
TRIPOLI	10:30 p.m.
TUNIS	11:40 p.m.
LARNACA	10:30 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival
CAIRO	03:30 a.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m.
NEW YORK	09:00 p.m.
AMSTERDAM	11:00 a.m.
FRANKFURT	12:25 p.m.
VIENNA	01:00 p.m.
MUSCAT	02:30 p.m.

MONDAY 04/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
MUSCAT	02:45 p.m.
CAIRO	10:00 a.m.
ROME	04:30 p.m.
VIENNA	04:30 p.m.
MUSCAT	05:45 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival
TRIPOLI	11:30 p.m.
TUNIS	12:40 a.m.
CAIRO	01:00 p.m.
LONDON	09:25 a.m.
PARIS	12:10 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m.
MUSCAT	03:45 p.m.

TUESDAY 05/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
VIENNA	02:00 p.m.
PARIS	04:50 p.m.
LONDON	05:40 p.m.
CAIRO	07:30 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival
CAIRO	07:30 a.m.
LONDON	09:25 a.m.
PARIS	12:10 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 06/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
VIENNA	11:15 a.m.
LARNACA	11:15 a.m.
CAIRO	09:00 p.m.
TUNIS	09:00 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival

<tbl

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Be light not fire

ONE EXPECTS a self-proclaimed superpower to be "a light unto the nations." The U.S. is certainly a superpower, but sadly it is more of a fire than light.

Consider if you will, the relationship between that huge, powerful country and a small country like Jordan. Right from the beginning of the Gulf crisis, Jordan maintained a stance that opposed the acquisition of land by force, recognised international legitimacy, abided by Security Council resolutions and, at the same time, rejected foreign intervention in the affairs of the region and the resort to force in solving regional conflicts. This Jordanian stand is based on a long tradition that Jordan applied to the other, older conflict of Lebanon, Palestine and as far back as 1961 Kuwait.

A bidding by Security Council Resolution 661 not to trade with Iraq, Jordan started importing all of its oil from Saudi Arabia on Sept. 1. Only 19 days later, the Saudis, acting in concert apparently with its "Big Brother," decided to cut the supply to Jordan on baseless grounds. With "silent" consent from the Americans, and with a waiver from the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee, Jordan started again to import its oil needs from Iraq, against money that country owes to the Kingdom. The arrangement went on for nearly five months, until the Americans and their allies last week bombed Jordanian oil tankers killing five Jordanians, one Egyptian and injuring 12 others.

Asked why allied jet fighters would attack Jordanian tankers, the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, said Jordan was violating the Security Council's sanctions resolution. When further asked if the U.S. knew if Jordan had special permission to import oil from Iraq, Tutwiler replied: "No, we do not."

The fact that the U.S. did not know if Jordan had permission to import oil from Iraq and yet went ahead with bombing our tankers is only an indication of that superpower's disrespect and disregard for any world order, including the one it claims to defend. Had the U.S. been more responsible and less arrogant, it would have taken the trouble to check with the Security Council committee to ascertain whether Jordan was acting properly and legally before its air force killed innocent Jordanians and other civilians and destroyed their property.

Americans can continue to shoot from the hip in their own backyard if they so wish, but further irresponsible actions by their administration in this part of the world can only aggravate the already explosive situation and widen the war front irretrievably.

Jordan had all along warned against starting war against Iraq, and ever since fighting erupted the Kingdom has been urging an immediate ceasefire and the start of negotiations, not just to save Iraqi lives but American and European lives as well. That call is all the more urgent today, considering that America may be beginning to lose touch with reality and reasonableness.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily commented Saturday on a statement by President Bush in which he expressed his dream of achieving a quick victory over Iraq in the ongoing Gulf war, but demanded that the American people shoulder more sacrifices to achieve that victory. The paper said that Bush should realise that though he started the aggression, it is not necessary that he would be able to maintain the initiative in the battles as the latest Khafji fighting had proved. Bush has expressed his grief over the death of American soldiers in the Khafji battle, but grief can by no means save the president from facing the truth that the Americans would be losing more men and material in such a conflict, said the paper. With every day that passes by, Bush bears more and more responsibility for the death of American soldiers; and this course can by no means achieve victory for the president, said the paper. Only through peace with Iraq can Bush achieve some kind of victory by saving the lives of his troops and preventing his country from facing another Vietnam, the paper continued. But, it added, the path to peace requires a lot of courage and moral commitment, not shedding of the blood of more men and women in a losing war.

A number of columnists in Al Ra'i daily commented on the government's decision to allow private cars to run on alternate days, voicing criticism and disapproval of the decision which can by no means be helpful to limited income groups. Most citizens will face with extreme hardships as a result of this ill-planned decision, and more money will be spent on taxis which also consume fuel at any rate, says Fakhri Kawar. The writer notes that he received 75 telephone calls from members of the public complaining that they could not by any chance abide by the new regulations for social and economic reasons, and that they all expressed dismay for hearing such decision when other plans are more feasible and applicable without causing so much inconvenience to the majority of the public. According to Kawar, whole families and their children would be facing difficulties in finding alternative means of transport which are not regular in most districts of Amman and other towns in Jordan. Most of the callers expressed support for the government's endeavours to rationalise fuel consumption, but they all suggested that goal, the writer adds.

Scenario that spells the end of the coalition

By Annika Savill

THE coalition against Iraq may be secure for now, but given a certain scenario, it will disintegrate. That risk, diplomats said yesterday, will come into play if the U.S.-led allies get Iraq out of Kuwait, but choose to continue to attack Iraq nonetheless.

British, French and Soviet diplomats conceded that such a situation would spell the end of unity among the Security Council's five permanent members. Out of the window would go France, which has more than 35 aircraft in the Gulf; the Soviet, who partook in a *Pas-de-deux* of superpower unity at the start of the crisis, and China, whose allegiance was always in question.

Continuing to attack Iraq to get Iraqi forces out of Kuwait would be justifiable to Washington and London, as Tom King, the U.K. Secretary of State for Defence, outlined at the weekend, by the fact that U.N. Resolution 678 allows for all necessary means to "restore international peace and security in the area." But, said a Soviet

diplomat: "If we allow them to interpret 678 now as a mandate to destroy Iraq, what is to stop America in five years claiming the right to invade Indonesia over Timor?"

French officials recently said that if the allies were to try to attack Iraq beyond that, France would seek help from Moscow and Peking at the U.N. to halt the exercise. Britain may well argue that restoring peace and security justifies enfeebeling Iraq — to others, peace and security means something different.

President François Mitterrand privately has his keen interest in prosecuting the war is part intended to ensure that he will be a player in its aftermath. However, Mr. Mitterrand has other priorities to address. For one, there is the 2 million to 3 million North Africans living in France — the largest Muslim community in any European country — and the 40,000 French living in France's former colonies in the Maghreb.

Peace and security in the area means, to France, addressing the

Israeli question as soon as possible. Mr. Mitterrand's men put the question over the weekend: "If America emerges after this as the power in the region, will it continue to support Israel unquestioningly or will it face up to its moral obligation?"

There may be speculation that Mr. King, in his military capacity, overstated even Britain's intentions when declaring that President Saddam's forces could not be left intact because "if we left this task half completed, so we only saw the same problems re-asserted in six months or a year's time." But a Foreign Office official said that the risk of President Saddam leaving Kuwait, while having the chance to do it all again was a real possibility, that the need to pursue him in Iraq was therefore justified; and that hence, the biggest fear was of a defection by the three dissenters in Security Council.

It was clear from the comments last weekend by the new Soviet Foreign Minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, that Mos-

cov has some difficulty in seeing the destruction of Iraq as within the spirit of the U.N. resolutions. To Moscow, peace and security means something else again. That is, a Soviet diplomat said yesterday, reigning in the influence of Iran to limit its

influence over the Islamic population in the Soviet republics, preventing a weakening of the Arab states against Israel; and above all, limiting the period of a post-crisis American presence in the area that would curtail Moscow's influence in the region.

It may be surprising that all the permanent five gave their blessing to Resolution 678. Yet they had no choice, the U.N. Charter states quite clearly — in chapter 7, article 42 — that the Security Council "may take such action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security." Granted, its authors may not have foreseen the consequences. — The Independent.

Wartime? Just one big party

By Jocelyn Zablit and Remer Tyson

CAIRO, Egypt — Come nightfall in this city of more than 15 million people, the nightclubs and hotels spring alive — with Kuwaiti exiles.

The streets in front of nightspots grow crowded as fleets of new, chauffeur-driven Mercedes-Benzes discharge their Kuwaiti owners. Hotel elevators are shrouded with the strong smell of perfume as Kuwaiti women, many sporting fur coats, Chanel purses and gold-and-diamond jewellery, head for another evening of Cairo nightlife.

The war to liberate Kuwait may be raging in their homeland, but for many of the Kuwaitis in exile here, the party rages on.

Long among the wealthiest of the residents of the oil-rich Gulf, many of the 30,000 Kuwaitis stranded here when Iraq invaded their country are continuing to live a high life that embarrasses some Kuwaitis.

Egyptians and other Arabs have long been bitter about the ostentatious wealth of oil-rich Gulf countries, including Saudi

Arabia.

But that bitterness has intensified in recent months because of what many Egyptians, with 45,000 troops on the ground in Saudi Arabia and an annual per capita income of just \$700, see as crass behaviour at a time when other countries are fighting to liberate Kuwait.

But that message has not reached everyone.

On a Thursday night, which marks the beginning of the weekend in Muslim countries, 450 energetic young men and women jammed into the hot, smoky Sultana's Disco.

They crowded onto a dance floor, their hands up in the air as they stomped and gyrated to the latest Arabic and Western tunes blasting into the early morning hours.

Some of the women wore miniskirts and tight pants. Their makeup was generally heavy, and only one was seen wearing a head scarf. Most of the men, many with heavy gel on their hair, wore open-collared shirts and sport coats.

Most didn't want to talk about

their presence in Cairo.

One who did, Mohammad Al Issa, 27, began discussing his latest vacation activities in London, Bahrain and Cairo, where he has travelled since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Asked if he was going to casinos and nightclubs, Al Issa, who hasn't heard from his parents and three sisters in Kuwait since the invasion, said: "I go everywhere, everynight."

But he took a different tack when two of his friends cautioned him that what he was saying might not look good in print.

After the warning, he said he spent his time listening to the news.

Some of the Kuwaiti families still have their maids, most of them Filipinos or Bangladeshis, to do chores and look after their children.

One hotel, the Rammes Hilton, offers \$565-a-day suites complete with a private, round-the-clock butler.

Gharib Abu Al Fadi, the front desk manager at the Safir Zamalek Suites Hotel, said the

Kuwaiti-owned hotel's 104 suites had been occupied by exiles since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Faraiha Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti emir's sister, is among the guests staying at the Safir.

The Kuwaiti government spokesman pointed out that hundreds of Kuwaitis were undergoing military training by the Egyptian army and that a group of 500 left last week for Sandi Arabia to join the allied forces.

He said courses were also being offered to men and women. The men are taught electronics, plumbing and auto mechanism. The women learn sewing, household plumbing and household maintenance.

But that apparently has done little to calm Egyptians, who have taken to telling the following story: epitomise the arrogance of the rich Kuwaitis.

An Egyptian taxi driver picks up a Kuwaiti passenger. The driver, out of compassion, tells the Kuwaiti there is no charge for the ride. The Kuwaiti looks at him and says, "I don't need charity from a beggar." — The Mercury News.

Gulf war of another kind grips the world

By Richard Lorant
The Associated Press

TELEVISION viewers in Cuba watch cartoons and baseball as U.S. and allied aircraft attacked Baghdad in the early hours of the Gulf war.

But in the most of the rest of the world, that was when the news bombardment began.

Television networks from Spain to Santiago cut into their regular programming to describe the aerial attack from the Al Rashid hotel in the Iraqi capital.

Newspaper from Australia to Zimbabwe rushed to put out special war editions and continue to print daily special sections on military developments.

Cable News Network, often broadcast locally with live voice-over translations, was the only source of spot news from Baghdad for much of the world that first night and is still heavily relied on for live coverage to bolster marathon news specials in dozens of countries.

The Atlanta-based network has so dominated European airwaves since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait that Italy's state-owned

Rai network said Thursday it wants to create a 24-hour European news station to counter what it sees as CNN's American point of view.

CNN correspondent Peter Arnett, who remained in Baghdad when others were ordered to leave Jan. 19, is now a household name in countries where most people were unaware of CNN before the war.

But Arnett is not the only foreign correspondent left in the battered city.

Alfonso Rojo, a reporter for the Madrid daily *El Mundo* who was also allowed by Iraqi authorities to remain, said in a story published Friday he has had to resort to spiriting handwritten notes out of Iraq because Arnett will not let him use the CNN satellite connection.

In some countries, officials have begun to react against the live marathons that typified the output of most TV stations in the first days of the war.

Gianni Pasquarelli, Rai general director, issued a directive Thursday asking that the Italian network dedicate extra news editions and bulletins only to "truly relevant news" and keep them

brief.

"Non-stop information is by nature non-verified information, and a type of programming that throws everything, whatever arrives, into the cauldron," Rai radio director Corrado Guerzoni said, explaining the rationale of the directives.

The government-run South African Broadcasting Corp returned to its regular programming on Monday after viewers began demanding an end to saturation war coverage.

The country's mainstream press, run by whites, has been running page one war coverage every day. But black-oriented newspapers like the Sowetan have given the war less coverage and said that many black South Africans either side with Iraq or are strongly against U.S. involvement in the region.

Also Thursday, nine mainstream conservative, centrist and socialist deputies in the French parliament said they were creating a "parliamentary observatory" of the media's war coverage.

The deputies criticised "disorder" in war coverage that caused ethical problems such as

the lack of distance with events, unverified information and risk of leaking military information.

In Thailand, the nation published an editorial Thursday entitled "War as Entertainment."

"The number of prisoners of war, the number of combat aircraft shot down, the number of Scud missiles destroyed have quickly replaced the government lottery in the terms of waging daily bets. Even the weekly horse races have become mundane."

Spain's year-old private and regional television stations, eager to establish themselves after decades of state TV monopoly, sent crews to the Gulf during the buildup to the war. Madrid's local station anchors its news programme live from Jerusalem and Amman or are strongly against U.S. involvement in the region.

Also Thursday, nine mainstream conservative, centrist and socialist deputies in the French parliament said they were creating a "parliamentary observatory" of the media's war coverage.

The deputies criticised "disorder" in war coverage that caused ethical problems such as

the lack of distance with events, unverified information and risk of leaking military information.

French-speaking television in Belgium, which normally stops broadcasting at 11:40 p.m., now runs all night with hourly news updates.

Mexico's Televisa Satellite News Network has indefinitely extended its late-night newscast from 30 minutes to an hour.

The state-owned Singapore Broadcasting Corporation's Radio and television stations have also expanded their hours. Radio stations broadcasting in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil used to sign off at midnight. Now they offer round-the-clock updates.

Zimbabweans and foreigners gather daily in the Harare Sheraton Hotel lounge and the Hotel Inn's Snuffbox cocktail bar to watch live war reports.

In post-communist Poland, where the war competes for space with Baltic efforts for independence from the Soviet Union, the war has prompted the first appearance of military experts in newspapers and on television.

State television offers a 10-minute nightly talk show, called

"War for peace," in which two Polish air force colonels discuss developments and present the types of arms used by both sides.

State-run television in China used CNN extensively on the first day of the war. In an unprecedented move, the national evening news broke away from domestic issues Jan. 17 a few minutes after the start of the newscast to provide 10 minutes of war reports.

Cuba appears to be one of the few countries immune to live coverage. The night the war broke out, Cubans received skimpy coverage of the war on government-controlled media.

The night of the attack, Cuban television showed excerpts of a news conference by President Fidel Castro in which he blamed the outbreak of war and said it could have been prevented by further negotiations. But he devoted most of his time to the upcoming Pan American games.

Cuba, one of two members of the U.N. Security Council which repeatedly held out against anti-Iraq resolutions, has a medical contingent of more than 200 people in Iraq.

This war is not about Kuwait, so Arabs can support Iraq without guilt

By Safwan Bataineh

TO ALL those Arabs who have suffered a wrenching moral dilemma ever since American troops massed in the Arabian desert, and American planes started mercilessly bombing Iraq, I say: do not feel guilty about siding with Iraq. The struggle taking place now is larger than Kuwait and even Iraq itself. It has become, in an irrational and roundabout, but nevertheless a clear manner, your own struggle.

Not that the occupation and annexation of Kuwait is right. It is not. But you must stop whispering

14,000 Palestinians detained

Amnesty calls for U.N. intervention in Israeli-occupied Arab territories

FOR OVER three years now Amnesty International has been expressing its concerns about a pattern of serious and widespread human rights violations in the Israeli occupied territories. These include large scale use of detention without trial, systematic ill-treatment and the killing of civilians by Israeli forces. Amnesty International deeply regrets that such violations continue, affecting thousands of people, and that the Israeli Government has been unwilling to take urgently needed measures of redress.

Some 14,000 Palestinians, including prisoners of conscience, have been held in administrative detention without charge or trial since December 1987. Over 4,000 were detained during 1990 for renewable periods of up to one year, the vast majority in the Ketziot detention camp in Israel, where visits by families do not take place. Although a two-step process of judicial review of detention orders is available, detainees are effectively unable to exercise the right to challenge their detention, as crucial information about the reasons for the detention is almost invariably withheld. The Israeli authorities often refer to the need to protect sources of information to justify such practices.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the Israeli authorities to review the necessity and appropriateness of maintaining the practice of administrative detention. It believes that this practice should not be used to detain prisoners of conscience nor should it be used as a means to avoid the safeguards of a regular criminal justice system. It continues to call all detained prisoners of conscience to be released immediately and unconditionally, and for the other political detainees to be released unless they are given an adequate opportunity to exercise effectively the right to challenge their detention. Amnesty International does not accept in this context that details of the evidence against each detainee cannot be disclosed more often.

"Thousands of Palestinians have been tried by military courts in the occupied territories, most charged with violent offences such as throwing stones or petrol bombs. After arrest, they can be held for 18 days before appearing before a judge. Many are denied access to lawyers and families for much longer periods. Confessions allegedly extracted during incommunicado detention are often the primary evidence. Those who plead not guilty face delays which could postpone trials for months and sometimes years. If convicted they face heavier sentences than those who choose to plead guilty. Bail is rarely granted and many plead guilty in order to avoid periods of pre-trial detention which would exceed likely sentences."

The systematic use of ill-treatment during interrogation continues to be widespread. Palestinians have also been tortured to obtain confessions or other information. Methods include beatings with truncheons and rifle butts on various parts of the body; hooding with dirty sacks; sleep deprivation by pro-

longed shackling in uncomfortable positions; confinement in small darkened cells often referred to as "closets"; burning with cigarettes; squeezing of testicles; and sexual harassment.

At least some such methods may be consistent with secret guidelines issued in 1987 by a commission of inquiry into the methods of investigation of the General Security Service. The commission, chaired by Justice Moshe Landau, endorsed "the exertion of a moderate measure of physical pressure" during interrogation. Amnesty International believes that any official suggestion that such treatment is permissible clearly departs from international law and accepted standards for criminal law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments prohibit all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under any circumstances.

Many Palestinians have been punitively beaten immediately after being apprehended. At least 16 are reported to have died after such beatings since December 1987.

Palestinians are reported to have died after tear-gas had apparently been deliberately misused in confined spaces where it can be lethal. Since December 1987 some 80 Palestinians, many elderly or very young, are reported to have died after having been exposed to tear-gas, about half after canisters were thrown into their homes or other confined places.

Since December 1987, some 700 Palestinian civilians, including many children and young people, have been shot dead by Israeli forces using live ammunition and special types of plastic and other bullets. Some appear to have been deliberately killed, others to have been the victims of a use of lethal force in circumstances where this cannot be justified. Israeli forces continue to use firearms as a common means of riot control, under official guidelines which appear to be inconsistent with the internationally recognised principles of necessity and proportionality in the use of force.

In October 1990 at least 17 Palestinians were shot dead by police at the Haram Al-Sharif (Temple Mount) in Jerusalem in the context of a riot. An official commission of investigation, headed by a former head of external intelligence, found that the shootings were justified by a life-threatening situation, although it also established that at some point firing was indiscriminate and that an ambulance attending the wounded was hit, injuring two nurses. Reports from local human rights groups and other sources suggested that many of the victims died as a result of indiscriminate and unjustifiable use of firearms. A judicial inquest into the killings is currently taking place. Amnesty International has called for an independent and impartial judicial inquiry to investigate the incident and to review official guidelines on opening fire and methods of riot control.

Official investigations into

abuses by Israeli forces are mostly conducted internally and take a long time to conclude. Despite the high incidence of apparently unjustifiable deaths since December 1987, Amnesty International is aware of only two prosecutions leading to imprisonment in cases of deaths following punitive beatings, and of five in cases of deaths by shooting. In 1990 one soldier was sentenced to two months' actual imprisonment and three received suspended sentences of up to five months for having beaten two Palestinians in their custody in February 1988. One of the victims died after the assault. Also in 1990 one soldier was sentenced to four months of "unpleasant" work at a military base for having shot dead in June 1988 a Palestinian who was apparently fleeing arrest. Just three weeks ago a senior commander was given a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment and a reprimand for having shot dead a Palestinian youth in July 1989.

The existing guidelines on the use of force, combined with the pattern of related abuses and the inadequacy of official investigations, all leads Amnesty International to conclude that the Israeli authorities are effectively condoning, if not encouraging, the perpetration of these human rights violations.

Amnesty International is aware that Palestinian methods of protest in the occupied territories have included violence, and that a number of soldiers and civilians have died as a result. Among the victims are some 300 Palestinians apparently killed by other Palestinians, the vast majority on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Some were killed after having been interrogated and tortured. Amnesty International stresses once again that it condemns torture and killings of prisoners by anyone. At the same time, it calls on the Israeli Government fully to abide by international human rights standards in exercising its authority over the Occupied Territories.

In particular, the Israeli authorities should urgently review existing guidelines on the use of force, including firearms and methods of interrogation, to ensure that they strictly comply with the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. Amnesty International also believes that speedy, impartial and public investigations, as well as appropriate prosecutions, are needed if doubts about the Israeli Government's willingness to protect human rights are to be removed.

The Government of Israel is already a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Amnesty International urges the Government to make a binding commitment to uphold these standards by ratifying these instruments and by taking all other measures that are urgently required to redress the continuing situation of grave human rights violations in the Occupied Territories.

Given the current circumstances in the region and in its endeavours to provide the best in hotel service to journalists and foreign media representatives, Amra Hotel has prepared a special discounted package to all such people, according to the sales and marketing manager Mr. Emad Abaza.

U.S. planes

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi Radio that the allies had resorted to attacks on residential areas.

"The usurpers of the Arab land, the desecrators of its sanctities, and the looters of its wealth find no means to confront Iraq's courageous challenge and its valiant armed forces," the broadcast statement said.

"There have been 18 of these cowardly raids on these areas," it said.

Iraq's ruling Al Baath party newspaper said Saturday that the daily allied bombing of the country had failed to "break the will and capabilities of Iraq... the aggressors known now that the idea of a short war to strip Iraq of its power has failed."

Iraqi columns struck across the border from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia last Tuesday night and Wednesday, seized the abandoned town of Khafji and held it until Thursday.

Neither Iraq nor the United States and its allies have reported major engagements on the ground since Thursday night.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Iraq's opponents launched new bomb and missile attacks on the Iraqi port city of Basra and other parts of southern Iraq Saturday, with two huge blasts rocking Basra.

A British military spokesman said Iraqi troops in Kuwait continued to move around but there was no sign of them preparing a new assault.

In other developments, France also said air attacks have virtually eliminated the threat of missile attack by Iraqi patrol boats.

Reporting four engagements on Friday night and early Saturday in which U.S. aircraft hit Iraqi patrol boats, the spokesman said a total of 31 craft had now been put out of action.

"We have destroyed practically all patrol craft that were capable of delivering missiles," he said.

"It may be they have only one or two left."

France said its planes attacked near Iraq's border with Kuwait.

The French defence ministry said two of the raids were, as in

previous days, against artillery and mechanised units of Iraq's elite Republican Guard. A third strike was against a munitions Depot 30 kilometres south of Kuwait City.

A British military spokesman said Iraqi troops in Kuwait continued to move around but there was no sign of them preparing a new assault.

In other developments, France gave permission Friday for U.S. B-52 bombers based in Britain to fly over French territory to bombing missions to the Gulf, the French Ministry announced.

The U.S. bombers flying over France can carry only conventional arms and may not strike civilian targets or religious sites in Iraq, the ministry said in a communiqué.

"When we speak of non-conventional arms, we're essentially meaning nuclear, chemical and radiological arms," a ministry spokesman said.

B-52 carry either conventional

bombs or cruise missiles. The missiles can be tipped with conventional or nuclear warheads. The ministry spokesman said conventionally armed missiles would probably be permitted under the accord.

The government has agreed to allow a Pakistani charity to send medicine and 2,000 pints (950 litres) of blood to help war victims in Iraq, the organisation's leader said Saturday.

"Muslims are dying and we want to help. The government says we can send this," said Abdul Sattar Edhi, head of the Karachi-based Edhi Welfare Trust.

Edhi said the medicine and blood would be sent to Iraq through the Saudi Red Crescent.

He said the charity also had wanted to send milk and baby food to Baghdad but was denied permission.

Egyptian authorities have ordered a Gulf-bound ship to unload explosives from its cargo before entering the Suez Canal.

Shipping sources said owners of the 15,125-ton Ogarti-registered Fatihukhair were told that 109 tonnes of high explosive mines could be sent overland and reloaded at the Red Sea end of the canal. Two Iraqi crew members were also told to travel by land.

A French television reporter said on Saturday U.S. soldiers had threatened French journalists with machine guns when they attempted to film in the Saudi town of Khafji after it was retaken by allied troops.

Nearly 400 refugees fleeing the Gulf war have crossed into Iran from Iraq in the past two days, IRNA reported.

It said 360 nationals of India, Sudan, Somalia and the Philippines were housed in temporary camps after arriving at Khorasani, a main crossing 720 km west of Tehran.

Eight Kuwaitis and 15 Iranians crossed through the Shalamch border in the south, IRNA added.

Special treat to journalists

**85% Discount on telefax & telephone charges ...
50% Savings on room charges ...**

Amra Forum Hotel



AMRA HOTEL

Situated by the Sixth Circle, the highest point in Amman, and the heart of the most prestigious business and residential area, close to the main highway leading to Queen Alia International Airport.

Amra Hotel is 100 per cent government owned and managed by the Inter-Continental Hotels Group (Forum International).

The hotel consists of 263 rooms and 11 suites each well equipped with a direct

telephone line, mini bar, central heating and air conditioning, six channels close circuit TV and 24 hours room service.

Given the current circumstances in the region and in its endeavours to provide the best in hotel service to journalists and foreign media representatives, Amra Hotel has prepared a special discounted package to all such people, according to the sales and marketing manager Mr. Emad Abaza.

Mr. Abaza said that due to the length of their stay in Amman journalists accommodated at Amra can enjoy 85 per cent discount on all their telephone, telefax charges, as well as 50 per cent discount on room rates according to this discount percentage the new room rate at Amra Hotel for journalists will be at:

single room JD 28,000
double room JD 32,000
triple room JD 42,000
junior Suite JD 60,000
executive Suite JD 110,000

No government tax or service charge will be added to our rates.

Due to the importance of the availability of a press centre and in order to complete the services offered to journalists we have sent two of our press centre employees to the Ministry of Information to be trained on handling the needs of journalists in this regard.

Since the completion of their training course our press centre now opens 24

hours. Other services provided by the business centre are Reuters monitors with controlled keyboard, personal computer, telex, telefax, photocopying, DHL services as well as typing and translation in both Arabic and English languages.

Mr. Abaza said that as part of the hotel roll in the local community relations they have established an underground shelter with a capacity of 300 persons and equipped with a sufficient first aid materials, blankets and two months supply of food and beverage necessities. Furthermore the hotel has a standby generator of 375 KVA, a standby telecommunication system with a direct telephone, telefax and telex lines linked to the shelters as well a 24 hours mechanics on duty.

Needless to say the hotel offers a wide variety of dining facilities from the informal coffee shop to a superb a la carte restaurant. The hotel's lounge and well known bar provides comfortable and relaxing meeting points. The Vienna Street side cafe offers all day coffee.

Mr. Abaza confirmed to us that a generous discount will be granted especially to journalists staying at Amra Hotel and wishes to visit Petra the rose red Nabatean city for those who are interested a 50 per cent discount on room rate and 25 per cent discount on food and beverage at our sister hotel the Petra Forum.

To top up this package the Amra management will treat you every night to a complimentary glass of your favourite drink to be served with your dinner.

Amra Hotel
PO Box 950555, Amman, Jordan
Tel: 815071/80 Telex: 22012
Fax: 6814072

Ricardo
Ricardo
Amman's exclusive gift shop
Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.
Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel. 669 457

**For the best
for your
MONEY...
ADVERTISE
in the**

Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

**THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE RELIABLE**

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT
FORWARDING, DOOR-to-DOOR
SERVICES AND
DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE, TICKETS
AND, RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAHWA & SONS
TEL: 604676 604686
P.O.BOX 7806
AMMAN

**CROWN
INT'L EST.**

packing, shipping,
forwarding, storage,
clearing, door-to-door
service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664696, Fax: 666632
P.O. BOX 22295 BESSICO JO
AMMAN-JORDAN

EASTERN

DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING
AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
TLX: 23 0 23 POB: 615 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in
1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays
Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefieh tel: 823891

Abdoun Real Estate

RENT
Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished
apartments & villas for rent
in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

**The First Class Hotel in
Amman that has a
Kitchenette in every
room...!**

DAROTEL

Take away service
available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle

Tel: 653519 659520

**CHEN'S
CHINESE
RESTAURANT**

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our
specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
6:30-Midnight

**Kashmir
Restaurant**

FIRST CLASS INDIAN
RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches
Take away service
available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm

Towards 3rd circle

Tel: 653519 659520

**PRESS
CENTER
Facilities**

The Regency Palace Hotel

Navratilova, Sabatini reach Pan-Pacific indoor tennis final

TOKYO (AP) — Armed with a pair of new and improved knees, Martina Navratilova says she will go into Sunday's Pan Pacific Open final a happier tennis player.

Navratilova, playing her first tournament since having surgery on both knees three months ago, takes on fifth-seed Gabriela Sabatini, who beat America's Mary Joe Fernandez Saturday 6-3, 6-4.

"I'm better than I was before the operation," third-seed Navratilova said after defeating Peru's Laura Gildeameister. "I'm much happier playing because I don't have to worry about my knees and can concentrate on the match."

But the world's former number-one, who has only five

wins to go before matching Chris Evert's record 157 career singles titles, has had a bit of a bumpy return so far.

After drawing a bye in the first round, Navratilova needed full sets to defeat England's Jo Durie, rated 60th in the world, and was never forced into going the distance again Saturday by Gildeameister, who is seeded seventh. Navratilova won 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

"I had to play really solid tennis," Navratilova said. "Laura's ranking isn't as good as Mary Joe or Gabriela, but she played very well ... she pushed me."

"There is no problem with my knees," she said. "I'm just not used to my renewed ability to

move around the court quicker." Argentina's Sabatini, who defeated top-ranked Steffi Graf Friday, breezed through her first five games against Fernandez on the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium's artificial court, but was bogged down by her opponent's consistency later in the match.

"I tried to play aggressively, but she plays very deep and wouldn't let me come to that net," Sabatini said. "She hit some very good serves."

Sabatini, who also beat Graf last September to win the U.S. Open, said she has the edge against Navratilova going into the final, which will net the winner \$70,000.

"She hasn't played for two months, and she's not had a

tough opponent," Sabatini said. "But it's Martina. She's going to come to the net and I'm going to have to be aggressive."

Navratilova, meanwhile, said: "This court is suited to my game. It'll just be a question of execution."

In doubles, top-seeded Kathy Jordan of the United States and Elizabeth Smylie of Australia are to meet America's Mary Joe Fernandez and Robin White in Sunday's final.

The Fernandez-White team beat the Japanese pair of Kimiko Date and Maya Kidowaki 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, while Jordan and Smylie defeated Rachel McQuillan of Australia and Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 6-1, 6-4 in their semifinal matches.

Scandinavian wins 1st skiing title in 33 years

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, Austria (AP) — Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden became the first Scandinavian woman to win an Alpine world title in 33 years Saturday by edging Ulrike Maier to capture the giant slalom.

Ulrike Haecher of Germany won the bronze medal. Yugoslav Veronika Sarec was fourth and Eva Twardokens of the United States was fifth.

Wiberg, 20, had the seventh-fastest time on the first run and trailed Maier by more than one second entering the second heat. But she had the fastest run on the second heat to defeat the Austrian, who won Tuesday's super-giant slalom, by a sixth of a second.

Wiberg's aggregate time was 2 minutes, 07.45 seconds. Maier finished in 2:07.61 and Haecher in 2:08.70.

"This is unbelievable. I didn't think I was going to take Maier,"

"I was trying for a medal, but I

said Wiberg, a slalom specialist. "Sometimes it's better to be a bit behind in the first run and to try to go very strong in the second."

Maier had a big lead at the midway point of the second run, but lost time when she appeared to lose her balance on the last part of the course.

Wiberg, who underwent major knee surgery last year, is the first Scandinavian woman to win a world title since Inger Bjoerntbakken of Norway won the slalom in 1958. The previous Swedish medal winner at a World Championships was Sarah Thomasson, a bronze medalist in the 1954 slalom.

Twardokens, 25, a bronze medalist at the 1985 World Championships in the giant slalom, also was in fifth place after the first run and finished with an aggregate time of 2:08.44.

"It was unbelievable. I didn't think I was going to take Maier,"

"I was trying for a medal, but I

Petra Kronberger last year. Kronberger, an Austrian who had been expected to dominate all five events here, tore a ligament in her right knee and the fell in the super-giant slalom race and had to pull out of the rest of the championships.

Schneider battled a knee injury last season and then wrestled with a loss of confidence this season after failing to finish several races.

"Slalom was particularly bad; although I was doing very well in training, I became very insecure on the course," she said.

Schneider turned to her family and her own experience to rebuild confidence.

"It wasn't so easy. I knew that skiing well is a matter of your head," she said. "I had won a few things before and I knew what was necessary to win. It wasn't simple."

Becker wins, Edberg loses in separate Davis Cup matches

By the Associated Press

BORIS Becker won in Germany's first Davis Cup match since reunification and Sweden's Stefan Edberg lost Friday as the 1991 tournament began despite several postponements because of the Gulf war.

Six zonal matches were postponed because of the conflict: Bahrain-Bangladesh, Sri Lanka-Syria, Singapore-Kuwait and Malaysia-Saudi Arabia in the Asia-Oceania Group, and Egypt-Senegal and Algeria-Ivory Coast in the African Zone.

Despite Becker's 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 victory over Paolo Cane, Germany was tied with Italy after the first two singles matches at Dortmund, Germany. Omar Campanese of Italy beat Michael Stich, 7-6 (7-2), 6-1, 6-3.

Edberg's loss was one of two

for Sweden at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. Goran Prpic beat Edberg 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, while Goran Ivanisevic beat Jonas Svensson 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. The doubles in the best-of-five matches will be played Saturday and the reverse singles Sunday.

Australia took a 2-0 lead over Belgium as Wally Masur beat Eduardo Masso 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 and Richard Fromberg beat Filip Dewulf 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Argentina also took a 2-0 lead as Martin Jaita defeated New Zealand's Brett Steven 7-4, 6-2, 6-2 and Javier Frana beat Kelly Everden 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, 6-3.

Sergio Bruguera of Spain defeated Andrew Szajdor of Canada 6-4, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 to give the home team a 1-0 lead. Bruguera is ranked 31st in the world and Szajdor is ranked 10th. The second match was suspended with

England manager suggests goalkeeper rule changes

LONDON (AP) — While world soccer chiefs ponder widening the goal-posts to improve scoring, England's national team manager, Graham Taylor, believes the game will improve by restricting the role of the man who stands between them.

He sees modern goalkeeper as a meandering, time-wasting nuisance who should be forced by the rules to stay where he belongs — in goal.

Taylor, who took over from Bobby Robson as England's manager after last summer's World Cup, hates to see a goalkeeper racing across the field like an extra defender and wandering up to the half way line to take free kicks.

In fact he would make it an offense if he did.

The 1990 World Cup produced a record low scoring rate, prompting FIFA, soccer's world governing body, to consider increasing the size of the goal.

Taylor believes the goal is not the major problem. It's the goalkeeper.

"The goalkeeper is one of the biggest problems for slowing up the game, for making it boring," Taylor said, interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"You see the goalkeeper coming out to take free kicks only ten yards from the half way line. If you can find a way of stopping him doing that you might find a way of making the game that much more entertaining."

Taylor said he would like to see the six-yard goal area pushed out to 12 yards and the goalkeeper told, he can't go outside it.

tied in behind Morelli at that point. The two ran 1-2 until 1-2 laps remained.

Then O'Sullivan came up on the outside and made a strong bid for the lead. But Morelli, the IAAF Grand Prix 1,500 champion in 1990, grittily held off O'Sullivan's challenge and pulled away.

O'Sullivan, whose only Millrose loss since 1986 was to Coglian in 1987, finished second in 3:55.17. Steve Scott, the American indoor and outdoor record-holder, was third in 3:57.77.

"Basically, it came down to a 200-metre sprint, and I just couldn't get by him," O'Sullivan said.

Another featured performer was Greg Foster, who raced to his eighth Millrose hurdles victory.

Foster, 32, who won his first Millrose title in 1980, rallied to win the 60-metre event in 7.48 seconds, beating 1990 national indoor champion Tony Dees.

Dees was out quickly, but the redoubtable Foster, the two-time world outdoor champion in the 110 hurdles and the world indoor record-holder, caught him at the second hurdle and led the rest of the way. Dees finished second in 7.53.

The victory moved Foster with one of the record for Millrose hurdles titles, set by Harrison Dillard from 1947 through 1955.

"I was more surprised than happy," Foster said. "I spoke to my wife earlier and told her I was nervous because this was my first race," of the season.

Another outstanding performance was turned in by former Florida star Mark Everett, who won the 600-yard race in 1:07.91, the second-fastest time ever at that distance.

Only Martin McGrady's 1:07.6 in Madison Square Garden in 1970 is faster.

Romanians finished 1-2 in the women's milt, with world indoor record-holder Doina Melinte winning in 4:33.81 and Margarita Keszeg the runner-up in 4:34.12.

Andre Cason, former indoor champion from Texas and one of the two conquerors of Ben Johnson this season, won the men's 60-metre dash in 6.61.

Horoscope not received

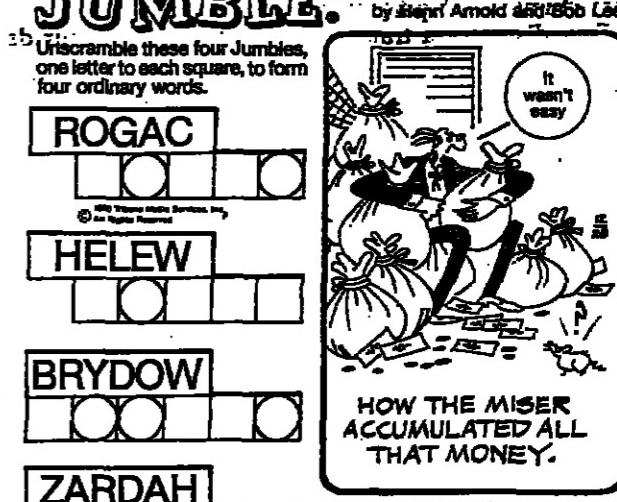
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Stein Arnold © 1991
Copyright 1991
Cartoon Syndicate Inc.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE " [circled letters] " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SHINY FOAMY UNFAIR COHORT
Answer: A rich relative is always close to you until you try to --- "TOUCH" HIM

THE Daily Crossword

by James Berick



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MOKE	A-TEA	GRABO
APLEX	RODS	SHAKER
Iben	character	BRISTOL
Discover	lemon	county
50	—	10
Tell	truck's	Growth
Excited	burden	Protract
60	—	14
Liberate	times	Time between
Hibiscus	material	times
46	—	18
Ibsen	material	Some muscles
Discover	—	20
50	—	22
Tell	public	abdomen
Excited	service	abdomen
60	—	23
Liberate	spouse	some
Hibiscus	abdomen	muscles
46	—	24
Ibsen	material	material
Discover	—	25
50	—	26
Tell	public	material
Excited	service	material
60	—	27
Liberate	spouse	material
Hibiscus	abdomen	material
46	—	28
Ibsen	material	material
Discover	—	29
50	—	30
Tell	public	Charter
Excited	service	Charter
60	—	31
Liberate	spouse	word
Hibiscus	abdomen	word
46	—	32
Ibsen	material	word
Discover	—	33
50	—	34
Tell	public	word
Excited	service	word
60	—	35
Liberate	spouse	word
Hibiscus	abdomen	word
46	—	36
Ibsen	material	word
Discover	—	37
50	—	38
Tell	public	mobile
Excited	service	Mantle and
60	—	39
Liberate	spouse	Rooney
Hibiscus	abdomen	Rooney
46	—	40
Ibsen	material	Win

36 Hect. measure

44 Johnny

45 Tropical gum

49 Remnant

51 Tenant

52 Mohair

57 Zoo

53 Prince in favorite

56 Aust. river

Mutt 'n Jeff



Andy Capp



GORÉN BRIDGE

Troisième semaine de guerre

Les premiers combats terrestres

L'offensive surprise lancée mardi soir par plusieurs milliers de soldats irakiens contre la ville saoudienne de Khafji a été «entièvement repoussée» jeudi selon l'état-major de la coalition anti-irakienne, mais des poches de résistance subsistent le long de la frontière koweïto-saoudienne. Les Irakiens ont annoncé qu'ils «se retirent» de la ville de Khafji.

Une certaine confusion régnait cependant, hier encore, autour du bilan de cette première bataille terrestre de la guerre du Golfe. Après un bilan publié par l'agence soviétique Interfax faisant état de 1.500 morts irakiens et un bilan britannique parlant de 300 soldats irakiens tués, les Britanniques révoyaient vendredi soir ce chiffre à la baisse en n'annonçant

plus que 30 morts. Chiffre confirmé l'Arabie Saoudite qui ajoute que 400 soldats irakiens auraient été faits prisonniers. Il semble également qu'à la suite d'une bavure, l'US Air-force ait tiré sur une de ses propres divisions, causant la mort de 11 marines.

La semaine a également été marquée par l'atterrissement de près de cent appareils irakiens, civils et militaires, en Iran selon le Pentagone. Mais l'Iran, qui n'a reconnu l'atterrissement que de 16 appareils, a assuré qu'ils ne pourraient pas quitter son territoire avant la fin du conflit, tout en précisant que sa position sur ce point pourrait changer en cas d'offensive israélienne. L'Iran n'a par ailleurs jamais indiqué ce qu'il comptait faire des pilotes et des équipages de ces

avions irakiens.

Selon le ministre israélien de la Défense, Moshe Arens, tous les chasseurs bombardiers irakiens Sukhoi-24 seraient passés en Iran, ce qui représente 20 à 25 avions. Cela signifie, selon lui que l'Iran tente de mettre à l'abri tous ses appareils de qualité hors de son territoire.

La semaine a également été marquée par l'atterrissement de près de cent appareils irakiens, civils et militaires, en Iran selon le Pentagone. Mais l'Iran, qui n'a reconnu l'atterrissement que de 16 appareils, a assuré qu'ils ne pourraient pas quitter son territoire avant la fin du conflit, tout en précisant que sa position sur ce point pourrait changer en cas d'offensive israélienne. L'Iran n'a par ailleurs jamais indiqué ce qu'il comptait faire des pilotes et des équipages de ces

est naturel que les avions irakiens se posent en Iran puisque les deux pays voient dans la guerre «une bataille entre la foi et l'infidèle». Interrogé sur une possible réutilisation de ces avions, il a affirmé que «chaque cas dépendait de circonstances particulières».

Téhéran est de ce fait, depuis jeudi, le théâtre d'une intense activité diplomatique. Pour la première fois depuis le début de l'offensive de la coalition contre l'Irak, une importante délégation irakienne conduite par le ministre délégué aux Affaires Etrangères, Saadoun Hammadi, est arrivée jeudi après-midi à Téhéran, avec un message du président Saddam Hussein «sur les relations bilatérales et la guerre du Golfe». Le secrétaire général du ministère français des Affaires Etrangères, François Scheer, le chef de la diplomatie algérienne Sid Ahmed Ghazali et une délégation du Yémen se sont également rendus à Téhéran.

Après une accalmie de

trois jours, l'Irak a repris jeudi ses tirs de missiles SCUD en direction d'Israël. Mais comme cela avait été le cas lundi dernier, le missile irakien à ogive conventionnelle est retombé sur la Cisjordanie occupée sans faire de victime selon le porte-parole de l'armée israélienne.

Pour la première fois depuis la création de l'Etat d'Israël, l'Allemagne a organisé à partir de jeudi soir un pont aérien afin de fournir du matériel militaire à l'Etat hébreu, notamment des blindés ultra sophistiqués, des équipements de protection contre les gaz et une batterie de missiles anti-missiles américains Patriot.

Pour la première fois également depuis le déclenchement de la guerre, l'OLP a annoncé avoir tiré mardi à l'aube 80 roquettes sol-sol de type Grad en direction des localités de Metoulla, Miskav Am, Kafir Jalaadine et Nahariya, dans le nord d'Israël.

Selon une source militaire israélienne ces roquettes se sont abattues sur la zone

Agences

LA SEMAINE...

de Siad Barre

Bienfaits de la guerre

Les méfaits de la guerre sont communs de tous. La mort et la destruction n'en sont que deux échantillons parmi d'autres. Il y a de bien pires: le déracinement d'un peuple de sa terre, par exemple, tel que commis par le sionisme envers le peuple palestinien depuis 1948. De tels drames peuvent être la source de guerres interminables.

Les bienfaits de la guerre? Je n'entends pas par là évoquer des perspectives de reconstruction ou de renouvellement d'un pays, ni le regain des activités économiques et des investissements après la guerre. Cela n'empêche pourtant pas certains d'envisager déjà des formules du type «plan Marshall» à l'issue de cette guerre qui ne fait que commencer. Non, les bienfaits auxquels je pense sont tout à fait différents; ils sont politiques et suscitent l'attribution la plupart du temps.

Tout d'abord, la trahison apparue au grand jour de certains régimes arabes, tels que l'Arabie Saoudite, l'Egypte ou la Syrie, a abrégé des années de lutte politique au sein du monde arabe. Depuis longtemps déjà, des mouvements politiques prônaient la lutte contre ces régimes réactionnaires et excluaient tout compromis avec eux, qu'ils considéraient comme des valets de l'imperialisme américain. Les années n'ont fait que confirmer — aux yeux des larges masses arabes — les thèses des militants révolutionnaires arabes des années 1960-70. L'expérience s'enrichit et la conscience s'approfondit dans le vécu. Ce que nous, peuples arabes, voyons à Hafir el-Baten (base des troupes de la coalition en Arabie) est scandaleux mais riche d'enseignements pour le présent comme pour l'avenir. Sans la participation des armées saoudienne, égyptienne et syrienne à cette guerre aux côtés des «Alliés», il aurait fallu plus de temps pour démontrer le danger représenté par ces «faux» arabes.

Le deuxième «bienfait» est que cette guerre a aussi dévoilé les faux-frères musulmans, tels que M. Ozal en Turquie. Les Arabes, tout au long de leur histoire, n'ont jamais fait le moindre mal aux Turcs. On ne peut pas en dire autant en sens inverse! Il y a un an encore, le gouvernement turc stoppait l'écoulement de l'Euphrate vers la Syrie et l'Irak pendant un mois pour remplir le grand barrage «Ataturk» de l'eau vitale pour l'économie turque. Pourtant, ce même gouvernement permet aujourd'hui aux Américains de bombarder l'Irak depuis une base installée en Turquie. Nous laissons au peuple turc le soin de vérifier si une telle politique et un tel comportement sont conformes à la fraternité islamique.

Enfin, l'Occident s'est fait le champion depuis quelques mois d'une duplicité jamais égalée, en particulier après le bombardement des Israéliens par les missiles irakiens. Tout à coup, Israël est devenu l'agneau innocent qu'il faut armer jusqu'aux dents, auquel on donne son argent, son affection et qu'on honore de visites des chancelleries en signe de solidarité. Un confrère faisait remarquer il y a quelques jours que les peuples arabes n'ont jamais rien vu de cette sympathie lors des bombardements de leurs maisons par l'armée israélienne en 1967 et les années suivantes. Mais ce n'est pas là la seule forme de duplicité de l'Occident. La liste en est déjà longue. En cette fin de siècle qui a connu le plus grand progrès matériel, il s'avère que l'Occident, qui a contribué principalement à ce progrès, ne respecte toujours pas ses propres principes en matière de droits humains.

Il est peut-être cynique de parler des bienfaits de la guerre deux semaines après son déclenchement, au moment où l'avenir de la région est encore en suspens.

Depuis quelque temps, une opinion s'est répandue assez largement: la guerre ne vise pas, sur le terrain, la libération du Koweït, mais la destruction de l'Irak. C'est une déviation manifeste par rapport au texte de la résolution de l'ONU. Parallèlement, il semble que les forces coalisées hésitent à déclencher leur offensive terrestre, par peur de trop lourdes pertes.

Dans ce cas, n'est-il pas temps de réunir le Conseil de Sécurité pour adopter une nouvelle résolution et de revenir sur le recours à la force, dont il a été fait usage sans résultat pendant deux semaines?

Une initiative dans ce sens pourrait permettre à la région et au monde d'éviter de nouveaux drames. Car si les «Alliés» persistent dans leur guerre, le processus de polarisation dont a parlé le roi Hussein la semaine passée ne peut que s'aggraver, et il faudra des décennies pour combler le fossé ainsi creusé entre les peuples d'Orient et les peuples d'Occident.



Semaine de guerre

DIMANCHE

-Après le Koweït, l'Arabie Saoudite s'engage à verser également 13,5 milliards de dollars aux Etats-Unis pour couvrir les frais de guerre.

-La destruction de quatre Mig 23 irakiens porte, selon le général Schwarzkopf, à 26 le nombre d'appareils abattus en combat aérien lors des 22.000 sorties des alliés. 18 unités navales irakiennes auraient été détruites.

LUNDI

-Alors que Téhéran annonce l'arrivée de quatre autres avions irakiens en Iran, Londres fait état d'une centaine au total.

-Septième attaque de missiles sur Israël: un SCUD tombe en Cisjordanie occupée.

-Dans une interview à CNN, Saddam Hussein affirme que ses SCUD ont une «capacité nucléaire, biologique et chimique».

MARDI

-L'Irak annonce qu'un des aviateurs alliés prisonniers a été tué lundi dans les bombardements sur Bagdad. Washington affirme avoir détruit ce jour-là un convoi de blindés irakiens et de véhicules d'approvisionnement.

-Jérusalem riposte à des tirs de roquettes contre le nord d'Israël, revendiqués par l'OLP en signe de solidarité avec l'Irak, en pilonnant dans la soirée le camp de réfugiés palestiniens de Rachidieh au Liban sud faisant 3 morts.

-L'Irak déverse du pétrole d'un terminal pétrolier dans la péninsule de Fao (Irak), provoquant une nouvelle marée noire.

MERCREDI

-Déclaration commune américano-soviétique annonçant que les hostilités pourraient prendre fin si l'Irak s'engageait sans équivoque à se retirer du Koweït.

-Bagdad affirme que ses troupes ont mené dans la nuit une «importante offensive terrestre» sur Khafji (environ 5 km à l'intérieur du territoire saoudien de la côté est).

-89 avions irakiens sont passés en Iran selon le chiffre officiel de la coalition anti-irakienne, 16 seulement selon Téhéran (dont 4 ont «disparu» ou se sont écrasés).

-Démission du commandant des forces navales italiennes dans le Golfe, qui avait estimé dans des déclarations à la presse qu'il aurait peut-être pu éviter la guerre avec un

Lettre au président français

français

Signée par soixante-dix anciens élèves jordaniens des écoles ou universités françaises, la lettre que nous publissons ci-dessous a été adressée la semaine passée au président de la République française, François Mitterrand, par l'intermédiaire de l'ambassade de France à Amman.

Monsieur le Président,

Nous, signataires de cet appel, diplômés des universités et écoles françaises, exprimons notre étonnement de la participation de la France à l'agression que les Etats-Unis mènent contre l'Irak et son peuple.

Nous aurions espéré que la France, pays qui se considère ami du monde arabe, soit en dehors de cette guerre contraire à ses principes traditionnels de Liberté, d'Égalité, de Fraternité et de Justice.

Nous pensons que cette agression vise à détruire ce pays arabe sous prétexte d'appliquer les résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU.

Nous demandons au gouvernement français de procéder à un arrêt immédiat de la guerre et au rétablissement du dialogue constructif en vue d'instaurer une paix juste et durable au Proche-Orient en tenant compte de toutes les résolutions de l'Organisation des Nations-Unies concernant l'ensemble des problèmes de la région, notamment la question palestinienne.

Nous rappelons que toute solution négociée doit prendre en considération l'élimination de toutes les armes chimiques et nucléaires dans tous les pays de la région et en premier lieu l'Irak dont l'arsenal nucléaire suscite la plus vive inquiétude et représente le plus grand péril.

Nous croyons profondément que l'engagement militaire français dans cette guerre destructrice portera un coup dur à l'amitié arabo-française. C'est pourquoi nous attendons à ce que la France reprenne ses initiatives diplomatiques dans l'espoir de parvenir à un règlement pacifique de la crise.

Nous nous joignons aux forces de la Paix en France et en Europe et nous souhaitons que notre voix soit entendue.

JEUDI

-Téhéran dément des informations de presse selon lesquelles un des avions de transport irakiens ayant atterri en Iran aurait été autorisé à regagner l'Irak.

-Une source militaire américaine annonce que deux soldats américains — dont une femme — d'une unité de transport qui n'a pas été engagée dans les combats sont portés disparus dans le nord-est de l'Arabie Saoudite. Les Irakiens disent les avoir capturés.

-L'attaque irakienne sur Khafji a été repoussée selon le commandement central américain à Riyad.

-Un avion américain de type C-130 avec une vingtaine de militaires à bord a disparaît derrière les lignes irakiennes. Une opération est lancée pour localiser et récupérer l'équipage de cet avion.

VENDREDI

-Nouveaux tirs de roquettes pour le cinquième jour consécutif contre le nord d'Israël depuis la «zone de sécurité» israélienne au Liban sud revendiquée par la résistance palestinienne.

-Bavure de l'aviation américaine en Arabie Saoudite: 11 marines sont tués dans le bombardement d'une de leurs divisions par l'US-Airforce, selon le département d'Etat américain.

-La France autorise le survol de son territoire par les bombardiers américains B-52 que la Grande-Bretagne a autorisé la veille à partir de ses bases pour aller bombardier l'Irak. Paris précise que ce feu vert exclut des appareils équipés d'armement non conventionnel.

SAMEDI

-Les Américains affirment que l'offensive irakienne contre l'Arabie Saoudite n'aura aucun effet sur le déroulement des opérations militaires de la coalition et ne précipitera pas l'engagement du conflit terrestre.

-La Grande-Bretagne ramène le bilan des combats de Khafji à 30 soldats irakiens tués, contre les 500 qu'elle avait annoncés la veille. Ce deuxième bilan est confirmé par l'Arabie Saoudite qui fait état par ailleurs de 400 prisonniers irakiens.

S.K.



Jean-Pierre Chevènement a rendu son tablier de ministre français de la Défense.

Dernière édition du «Jourdain»

En raison des circonstances particulières que traversent actuellement la Jordanie et la région, la Fondation de la Presse Jordaniene (Al-Rai-Jordan Times) n'est plus en mesure de poursuivre la publication de son supplément hebdomadaire en français, Le Jourdain, au sein du Jordan Times.

Cette édition est donc la dernière des pages en français, qui sont publiées depuis le mois d'octobre 1988.

Le Jourdain remercie tous ses fidèles lecteurs pour leur soutien et leurs encouragements tout au long de cette période, et espère pouvoir reparaitre en de meilleures circonstances.

Tout courrier peut être adressé désormais à l'éditeur de ce supplément:

Jean-Marc Bordes
PO Box 35.287
AMMAN

EN BREF

Accusation. Le ministre jordanien des Affaires Etrangères, Taher al-Masri, a accusé l'aviation alliée d'attaquer des civils et d'avoir tué, mardi et mercredi, quatre Jordaniens à l'intérieur du territoire irakien alors qu'ils étaient en route pour leur pays. Le porte-parole du département d'Etat, Margaret Tutwiler, a indiqué de son côté que les Etats-Unis regrettaient profondément la mort de quelque civil que ce soit, tout en rappelant que la région dans laquelle se trouvaient ces véhicules était zone de guerre et qu'elle continuerait à être extrêmement dangereuse, compte tenu de la poursuite de la campagne contre les SCUD.

Essence. Le gouvernement jordanien a décidé de restreindre la circulation en Jordanie en organisant l'usage des voitures privées sur la base d'un jour sur deux afin d'économiser l'énergie. Les voitures privées munies de plaques d'immatriculation portant des numéros impairs rouleront les jours impairs, tandis que les voitures munies de plaques portant des numéros pairs rouleront les jours pairs. Les taxis et autres véhicules de service public ne sont pas concernés par ces mesures. Les restrictions seront appliquées à partir de mercredi prochain et les voitures qui ne s'y conformeront pas seront confisquées.

Réfugiés. Les réfugiés fuyant les bombardements des forces de la coalition sur l'Irak affluent de plus en plus nombreux dans les camps installés à leur intention dans les pays frontaliers de l'Irak. En Jordanie, plusieurs milliers de ressortissants égyptiens et quelques soudanais qui étaient bloqués une semaine au poste frontalier de Trebil ont commencé mercredi matin à entrer en Jordanie par le poste de Rweished. La Syrie, dont les frontières avec l'Irak sont fermées depuis 1982, a indiqué qu'elle était prête à les ouvrir pour des «raisons humanitaires» à toute personne fuyant l'Irak, y compris des Irakiens. Au total, plus de 2.500 étrangers se sont rendus en Iran par le poste de Khoravri.

Attentats. Environ

Braderie planétaire

La dignité pour quelques dollars

Décidément, la crise du Golfe, devenue guerre du Golfe, nous fait découvrir, au fil des jours, des réalités insoupçonnables.

Ainsi, tout s'enchaîne: pour être diplomate, il faut être poli; ou —partant du fait que la politesse est une forme d'hypocrisie—, les politiciens de ce monde qu'ils mènent à la catastrophe font de l'hypocrisie leur règle de conduite. Ils ont réussi à concilier, entre autres, —par un entrelacs inextricable de communiqués, d'interviews et autres conférences de presse, en utilisant des termes univoques— des théorèmes démontables avec des postulats incontournables.

En préchant la dissociation du problème du Moyen-Orient de celui du Koweït supposé être la cause directe du conflit, on nous a fait entrer de plain-pied dans cette tourmente apocalyptique, et malgré ce lieu irrécusable, les Américains, par des manœuvres dilatoires, nous ont donné une leçon magistrale de l'art des tervgessions politiques. Pendant une semaine, ils se sont ingénier à repousser, jour après jour, une résolution affectant à leurs yeux les intérêts d'Israël, alors que, dans la même période, ils réussissaient le tour de force de faire voter une dizaine de mesures à l'encontre de l'Irak! Et c'est à la fin de cette fameuse semaine que j'ai presque ressentit la honte d'être arabe. Car c'était l'unique opportunité pour les Arabes de prendre des dispositions unilatérales, des décisions fermes et irréversibles, de faire éclater cette coalition contre nature envers un autre pays arabe, de décider qu'à un problème arabe il fallait une solution arabe, et qu'au-delà de toute considération éthique ou ethnique, on ne peut conceder le droit de parer de guerre qu'à un seul pays arabe: le Koweït.

Mais hélas, mille fois hélas, où est la Nation arabe? Où est l'unité arabe? «Comment en un vil plomb, l'or pur s'est-il changé?» (Racine).

Pour une poignée de dollars, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont acheté la dignité, la conscience et la valeur morale d'un peuple au passé trois fois millénaire, vendus à une Amérique qui faisait il y a à peine cent ans, le 29 décembre 1890, exterminer par ses tuniques bleues 300 Indiens dans l'espace de quelques minutes. Le président Bush «pardonné sa dette à l'Egypte», comme s'il s'agissait d'un blasphème.

Pour une poignée de dollars, assortie d'une promesse évasive de relations commerciales bilatérales et l'assurance d'une amnésie chronique sur certains agissements terroristes, l'oncle Sam s'achète des liens indéfectibles avec la Syrie.

Le comique cotoie le tragique. La Turquie multiplie les courbettes pour acheter une treizième place dans l'Europe des Douze. Elle va même jusqu'à offrir gracieusement une base aérienne militaire aux forces alliées pour qu'elles puissent bombarder l'Irak, oubliant qu'elle recevait de cet Irak-même des millions de dollars pour les pipe-lines qui traversent son territoire. Tout le monde est atteint de perte de mémoire aggravée: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Berlin, c'est le passé lointain.

Emboitant le pas à ces «achats» et «ventes» tous azimuts, c'est alors une folle farandole, une envolée irrépressible de dollars à travers le monde...

L'Arabie Saoudite cautionne la politique de l'URSS avec 400 millions de dollars, alors même que les relations diplomatiques entre ces deux pays sont inexistantes, tandis que le Koweït se prémunit de verser des sommes inimaginables à la Chine pour acheter son veto à l'ONU. De la folie! L'Irak n'en demandait pas tant!

Une braderie à l'échelle planétaire. On liquide, on solde, comme on sème à tous vents et à bas prix, l'Honneur, la Dignité, la Morale, la Vertu, la Conscience, le Passé, le Présent et même l'Avenir.

«La manie du rabaissement est la lèpre morale de notre époque», écrivait Flaubert.

Les Arabes ont été depuis longtemps et sont toujours en tête des peuples rabaissés et il faudrait être d'une naïveté extrême pour croire à cet amour subit et incontrôlable que les Etats-Unis et leurs alliés semblent soudainement éprouver à leur égard. Au fil des jours, on s'aperçoit avec amertume que le Koweït est oublié et que seule la destruction de l'Irak compte. Même la France, dont l'ex-ministre de la Défense, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, est président de l'Association d'amitié franco-irakienne et qui avait promis de ne jamais intervenir en Irak, a failli à sa parole. Terre d'art et de culture, de liberté et de démocratie, elle vient de faire exploser, au rythme de ses bombes, cette devise qui fait d'elle la France: «Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité».

Depuis le début de la crise, les ballets diplomatiques orchestrés par les Etats-Unis n'avaient qu'un objectif précis: complexifier le problème pour ne laisser entrevoir qu'une seule issue possible: l'intervention armée.

On s'étonnait, en effet, d'entendre le président américain ou son secrétaire d'Etat répéter à l'envi et comme un leitmotiv: «pas de compromis, pas de concessions, pas question pour l'Irak de sauver la face». Ils auraient dû ajouter pour compléter le chapelet de négations: «pas de discussion». Ainsi, tout le monde aurait compris. Mais personne ne voulait comprendre ce qui pourtant était aussi clair que de l'eau de roche: les Américains, les Anglais, et bientôt les Israéliens, voulaient purement et simplement détruire complètement le potentiel militaire irakien et, dans la foulée, écraser cet Etat arabe qui se permettait des velléités de modernisation.

Seul Saddam Hussein savait cela, tout comme il savait que la position du président Bush était dictée par deux principes fondamentaux et inébranlables. Premièrement: assurer à Israël, outre sa sécurité, une domination totale —militairement parlant— sur le monde arabe, ainsi qu'un rôle de partenaire et de gendarme dans la région. Deuxièmement: s'assurer la maîtrise sur les ressources pétrolières du Golfe. Sur ce point précis, M. Bush —milliardaire grâce à ses puits de pétrole au Texas— est bien placé pour savoir que c'est grâce au pétrole qu'il s'est retrouvé propulsé au sommet de la statue de la Liberté, ce qui lui permet de regarder le monde de haut.

Les deux chocs pétroliers et leurs conséquences économiques catastrophiques ne sont pas près d'être oubliés. Comme ne peut être occultée la grande puissance économique de l'Europe des Douze, particulièrement après l'unification des deux Allemagne. Ajoutez à cette force naissante, celle inquiétante du Japon, et il n'est pas besoin d'avoir fait Sciences-Po pour comprendre que celui qui contrôlera le pétrole du Golfe contrôlera également le reste du monde. M. Bush le sait. Il est en Arabe Saoudite et n'en repartira jamais. Il y est; il y reste. Il ne pouvait pas laisser ce lever —qui pouvait faire basculer le globe— entre les

mains d'un Arabe.

Partant de ces raisonnements, un seul but est recherché: la victoire. Et l'on franchit allègrement la dernière marche de l'escalier qui mène à l'enfer. On bombarde l'Irak, presque joyeusement, à qui mieux mieux, dans une atmosphère d'Arbres de Noël. C'est une affaire d'heures. On se rappelle avec vantardise d'une autre guerre, dans la même région, qui n'avait duré que six jours. On sera mieux cette fois-ci: ce sera six heures, pas plus, c'est planifié sur ordinateur géant.

Après trois jours de bombardements intensifs, désespérant de ne plus trouver d'objectifs militaires, on largue ses bombes n'importe où, sur des usines de lait pour enfants. Du lait biologique ou du lait chimique, qu'en sais-je? On lâche ses bombes sur des mosquées dont les minarets deviennent des lance-missiles —tout est possible en enfer. On jette ses bombes là où l'on veut, histoire de ne pas rentrer bredouille de la chasse, et de ne pas subir les quolibets des copains au retour.

Et soudain, ô rage, ô désespoir, Saddam Hussein a des prisonniers américains et autres! Est-ce possible? On se révolte, on crie au crime, on invoque la convention de Genève, on parle de Lois internationales, on se rappelle brusquement des Droits de l'Homme. «L'Homme est un apprendi, la douleur est son maître, et nul ne se connaît tant qu'il n'a pas souffert», disait Mussert.

Pendant vingt-trois ans, dans les territoires occupés par Israël, les Droits, les Lois, les Conventions, les Résolutions, etc... ont été bafois, foulés aux pieds, ignorés par l'entité sioniste. Je recommanderais à M. Bush de se faire projeter quelques cassettes vidéo avant d'aller se coucher: celles particulièremenr horrifiantes de soldats juifs brisant les bras et les omoplates de jeunes Palestiniens avec de grosses pierres, ou celles de bébés de moins de 1 an, le crâne fracassé par les balles, gisant lamentablement entre les bras de leur mère désespérée et sans défense. Après ces projections, je souhaite à M. Bush de passer, dans sa Maison Blanche, une nuit... de la même couleur.

Où est Genève, avec ses salles de conférences tapissées de rouge? Pendant 23 ans, Israël soutenu par les Etats-Unis, a ignoré totalement l'idée même de Nations-Unies et ce qu'elles représentent. Il n'est pas concerné.

M. Bush, si l'on me passe l'expression, ne manque pas de souffle. Envoquer Genève, à ce stade, est vraiment faire preuve d'une totale absence du sens des réalités.

Un bombardier qui largue 10 tonnes de bombes à 10.000 mètres d'altitude ne détruit certainement pas que des objectifs militaires. Alors, de grâce! A la guerre comme à la guerre et tous les coups sont permis.

Au Vietnam, en Corée et ailleurs, les Américains —ces parangons de vertu— grillaient au lance-flamme des Vietnamiens sortant de leur refuge sous-terrain les bras haut levés en signe international de reddition. Sans parler du napalm, utilisé indistinctement pour brûler des familles entières, en Algérie, au Vietnam, et j'en passe!

Et pour rester dans l'horreur, qu'on me permette de poser une devinette à tout-être humain qui vit sur cette planète:

Vous êtes seul dans votre champ, à l'aube d'un jour printanier. Votre femme, vos cinq enfants, vos parents et vos parents-de-votre-vie vous rejoindront un peu plus tard pour vous apporter du café chaud et des galettes odorantes. Au loin, dans un ciel bleu azur, un avion bombardier lâche sa cargaison de 10.000 kilogrammes d'explosifs sur le village, enterrant, en l'espace de dix secondes, tout ce qui a fait votre vie. Vous êtes seul aux champs; vous êtes seul à jamais. L'avion a eu des problèmes techniques. Le pilote a sauté en parachute. Capturé par les villageois, on vous le ramène quelques temps plus tard, bien portant, le sourire encore aux lèvres du sentiment de sa mission accomplie, sur les lieux mêmes de son crime, sur les décombres de ce qui a été votre joie, votre bonheur, votre raison d'être. Que faites-vous de ce pilote?

Il n'est pas besoin de sondage de l'opinion publique, ni de composer CANNIBAL sur son Minitel, pour connaître les réponses. Elles varieraient sous toutes les latitudes du Globe entre «Je le mange crus», «je le découpe en rondelles» et «je le fais griller à petit feu».

Mais vous n'êtes pas! Selon MM. Bush, Major et autres, il faudrait le livrer à la Croix-Rouge et se conformer strictement aux termes de la Convention de Genève, votée en l'An de Grâce 1900-et-des-poussières. On croit rêver. Les pays du Maghreb viennent de demander la réunion du Conseil de Sécurité pour définir un processus de cessez-le-feu. Réponse: il est trop tard... ou trop tôt. Plus sibyllin que moi, tu m'eus.

En conclusion, c'est avec amertume et déception que je note —entre autres malheureusement— les réactions de quelques personnalités dominantes:

—M. Naguib Mahfouz, écrivain de renom, prix Nobel de littérature, Egyptien et Arabe de surcroit, dont l'âge, la culture et l'intelligence font, en principe, un pilier de la Sagesse mondiale, lance, dans des pamphlets qui frôlent l'indécence, un réquisitoire contre M. Saddam, fier et incontestable de tout Arabe digne de ce nom.

—M. Bush, qui ajoute à la violence de ses diatribes, une scatalogie indignante d'un président de la République la plus puissante du monde, proclamant à la face du monde qu'il va «botter le derrière de Saddam» (et je suis poli car le mot «ass» en anglais est beaucoup plus péjoratif), ne fait que prouver son manque de self-control et son inaptitude à résoudre les problèmes pacifiquement.

Manifestement à la solde des Etats-Unis, M. Perez de Cuellar, censé être le fléau de la balance, symbole de Justice, s'est complètement effacé de la scène politique pendant la crise, pour ne réapparaître que lorsqu'il était trop tard. Devant l'échec de sa mission, une seule sortie possible et juste: démissionner de son poste, à l'instar de certains ministres français, soviétiques, turcs, et autres généraux.

—M. Gorbatchev, prix Nobel de la Paix... sans commentaire. (Les Etats-Unis doivent regretter actuellement cette attribution).

Il est triste de constater que la Sagesse, «cette parfaite connaissance de toutes les choses que l'Homme peut savoir», n'est hélas qu'une coquille de noix, en détresse sur l'Océan des âges.

Rachid Boutella
Pilote de ligne algérien
Ancien pilote de chasse
dans l'armée irakienne

Voyage

A la découverte... de soi

L'été passé, j'étais en Afrique. Ce ne fut pas un voyage ordinaire. Tout mon être en fut frappé, choqué, bouleversé. Mes conceptions, mes idées et les éléments les plus profonds de mon inconscient furent secoués par un séisme. Jusque là je vivais (je sais maintenant que je décrivais «vivotaïs») en tranquillité, en sécurité psychologique. Je me vantaits et me complaisais dans une stabilité qu'aucun doute ne venait jamais troubler. Tout cela est fini aujourd'hui. Tout cela appartient au passé.

La nuit! Oh la nuit! Ce n'est pas notre nuit d'omnipotence et familière: là-bas, c'est une nuit effrayante, peuplée d'ombres et de voix. Le soir, lorsque la ville commence à s'endormir, la Nature et les arbres prennent une allure différente et sinistre. La végétation tropicale et opulente s'anime et murmure des chuchotements étranges. C'est comme si la Nature prenait une autre dimension pendant la nuit, une réalité qui n'existe pas le jour. La nuit est son domaine et n'appartient pas aux humains. Cette métamorphose s'accompagne de voix d'animaux qui deviennent plus audibles au fur et à mesure que la nuit se prolonge, créant une atmosphère ensorcelante. Tard dans la nuit, quand les tavernes locales ferment et déversent leur flot de client dans les rues, on entend les hommes saoulz gueuler et meler leurs cris à ceux des animaux dans un concert d'épouvante. Les hommes oublient l'apparence civilisée du jour, pour retrouver leur nature indomptable. Dans mon lit, je me laisse emporter par ce tourbillon qui met mes sens sans dessus-dessous. Deux semaines dans cet état sont plus qu'assez pour te déranger, te briser la tête. Je me suis décidé à changer de place et à aller visiter... la mer.

O mer! O désert! je t'ai

mouvements gracieux sont pleins de charme. Quand ils se parlent, ils se regardent sans gêne, ils sont à l'aise. Ils se regardent avec amour, pas un amour chrétien mais un amour primitif, une simple joie de vivre. Ils se moquent du péché chrétien et de toutes les miséries.

La nuit! Oh la nuit! Ce n'est pas notre nuit d'omnipotence et familière: là-bas, c'est une nuit effrayante, peuplée d'ombres et de voix. Le soir, lorsque la ville commence à s'endormir, la Nature et les arbres prennent une allure différente et sinistre. La végétation tropicale et opulente s'anime et murmure des chuchotements étranges. C'est comme si la Nature prenait une autre dimension pendant la nuit, une réalité qui n'existe pas le jour. La nuit est son domaine et n'appartient pas aux humains. Cette métamorphose s'accompagne de voix d'animaux qui deviennent plus audibles au fur et à mesure que la nuit se prolonge, créant une atmosphère ensorcelante. Tard dans la nuit, quand les tavernes locales ferment et déversent leur flot de client dans les rues, on entend les hommes saoulz gueuler et meler leurs cris à ceux des animaux dans un concert d'épouvante. Les hommes oublient l'apparence civilisée du jour, pour retrouver leur nature indomptable. Dans mon lit, je me laisse emporter par ce tourbillon qui met mes sens sans dessus-dessous. Deux semaines dans cet état sont plus qu'assez pour te déranger, te briser la tête. Je me suis décidé à changer de place et à aller visiter... la mer.

O mer! O désert! je t'ai

toujours aimée. Je t'ai toujours cherié. Toujours tu m'as apporté le soulagement et la consolation. Cette fois aussi je suis rapproché de toi espérant être soulagé et reconforté. En vain.

L'effet des deux semaines précédentes avait commencé à m'enivrer et à me pénétrer sournoisement. Cette fois là, oïl venait mais lui aussi conspirait, avec les autres, contre moi. Contre moi qui étais seul et vulnérable. J'ai passé de longues soirées à discuter avec lui après son retour de la pêche. C'était en fait un monologue: il parlait et j'écoutais; il posait des questions et n'attendait pas mes réponses.

Les plages d'ici sont faites autrement. Elles ne sont pas là pour qu'on s'y baigne ou pour y faire du sport avec des copains. Pas du tout. Les plages d'ici agitent et tourmentent l'esprit. On n'y trouve personne, la plupart du temps. On s'y sent seul. Et cette solitude, cette séparation du monde connu pendant des heures, ne m'aide pas à retrouver un point de repère connu. Au contraire, je me suis senti perdu et je me suis enfoui plus profondément dans la confusion et la terreur. J'essayaient d'écouter les vagues qui me calmaient autrefois, mais elles ne faisaient que susciter mille questions anciennes et nouvelles qui allaient en résultat.

Pour les médias de la coalition, il n'y avait pas l'ombre d'un doute: Saddam et sa «clique» étaient les vrais coupables. Ils avaient attaqué un pays souverain, comptant près de 400.000 nationaux (plus 1 million et demi de serfs), sans aucune considération du fait que ce pays était membre à part entière de l'ONU (en instance de décès) ainsi que de la très regrettée Ligue Arabe.

Pour les médias de la coalition, il n'y avait pas l'ombre d'un doute: Saddam et sa «clique» étaient les vrais coupables. Ils avaient attaqué un pays souverain, comptant près de 400.000 nationaux (plus 1 million et demi de serfs), sans aucune considération du fait que ce pays était membre à part entière de l'ONU (en instance de décès) ainsi que de la très regrettée Ligue Arabe.

Voici un extrait d'une conversation qu'eut dernièrement Shiry, envoyée spéciale d'une chaîne de télévision renommée, avec un intellectuel jordanien du nom de Sharif.

—Et bien Sharif, pourquoi l'Irak a-t-il envahi un pays souverain?

—Vous devez savoir tout de même Shiry que le Koweït (surement sur l'instigation de Washington) a poussé à bout la patience de l'Irak.

—Oui, je sais bien, mais tous les différends frontaliers ou autres ne peuvent justifier l'agression du 2 août. Il y a tout de même des instances internationales pour ce genre de conflits!

—Ecoutez, Shiry. Je suppose que vous n'allez pas porter plainte au commissariat de police chaque fois que votre petit frère vous casse les pieds: vous vous contentez de lui administrer une bonne fessée, c'est tout. C'est exactement ce qu'avait cru faire l'Irak. Il ne pouvait tout de même pas traiter le Koweït en pays étranger: ce dernier lui a toujours appartenu et ne lui a été volé qu'assez récemment!

—Et alors! Une bonne partie de la Pologne appartenait bien au troisième Reich, mais l'Allemagne réunie ne traite pas pour autant cette partie en «petit frère», comme vous dites!

—C'est très différent. Vous vous rappelez sans doute qu'en 1899 les Britanniques, moyennant de l'argent, des cadeaux et certains services, avaient réussi à convaincre le Cheikh du Koweït de signer un traité par lequel celui-ci leur donnait la main-mise sur les affaires extérieures du sous-département qu'il contrôlait. (Ce cheikh, disent les mauvaises langues, raffolait de jeunes matelots tout blonds.) Naturellement, ce traité n'avait aucune valeur légale car le Koweït (ainsi d'ailleurs que l'Irak) faisaient partie de l'Empire Ottoman. Imaginez un peu le sous-préfet de Lèsparré (

Economy

OECD chief sees impact of Gulf war shifting with variances

DAVOS, Switzerland (R) — The Gulf war should have a limited impact on the world economy if the conflict does not spread, more advanced weapons are not used, and terrorists do not cause serious damage, a top economist said.

Jean-Claude Paye, secretary-general of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said the main economic impact so far had been the over-reaction of many consumers and companies.

Paye said it was impossible to be certain exactly what impact the war would have on the world economy.

"But if there is no geographical expansion, no technological upgrading of the war, as compared with today, probably the economic impact will be limited," he told Reuters in an interview.

He said terrorism could have a serious impact if, for instance, many refineries were blown up, but so far this had not been a serious problem.

Commenting on what he saw as over-reaction to the war, he said: "When I learn the day after the war broke out that many, many companies in the United States and everywhere had decided to forbid any travel of their managers or high officials, I was appalled."

Paye, in Davos for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, said he was also shocked to find people in Paris hoarding foodstuffs, saying this was further proof of what he called the excessive impact of the media.

"You have an exaggeration of the reactions of the consumers and companies."

The OECD, a 24-nation think-tank, predicted in a report last December, a month before the war broke out, that output among its members would grow by two per cent this year, down from 2.8 per cent in 1990.

It said then that the Gulf crisis finally pushing the weak U.S. economy into recession, but Germany and Japan would prop up the industrial world as a whole to a ninth consecutive year of growth.

Paye said the war's impact on oil prices should be limited because "the reduction of oil production linked to the (United Nations) embargo (on Iraq) has been matched since August by increased production of other countries."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, February 2, 1991
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	664.0	668.0
Pound Sterling	1310.4	1318.3
Deutschmark	452.2	454.9
Swiss franc	530.3	533.7
French franc	152.6	153.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	401.6	402.6
Dutch guilder	401.5	402.9
Swedish krona	120.7	121.4
Italian lira (for 100)	60.1	60.5
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.2	221.5

Recession-hit Britain counts the cost of war in the Gulf

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it would have to raise public spending this year by £600 million (\$1.2 billion) to meet costs of the Gulf war.

A treasury announcement was made as politicians and newspapermen asked who would pay for Britain's war role.

Public spending for the year to April is now put at £181.2 billion (\$362.4 billion), up from an earlier forecast of £180.6 billion (\$361.2 billion).

"Increases for military deployments to the Gulf account for almost all the increase in the estimate," the treasury said in a statement on its revised spending plans.

David Mellor, chief secretary to the treasury, flew to the United Arab Emirates Friday to try to secure some cash help.

This week Germany pledged £75 million (\$550 million) to Britain. Saudi Arabia will also meet some expenses.

But this will be a fraction of the total and Britain, in the grip of a severe recession, is seeking financial contributions from other nations, particularly from economic

superpower Japan.

The bill for six British Tornado aircraft lost so far is more than \$240 million. Some grim economic forecasts put British Gulf war expenditure at more than \$20 billion.

The British government, unlike America's, has been remarkably slow to pass the hat around," said an article published Friday in the Economist, a weekly magazine.

The Daily Mail summed up indignation over what one junior British minister called Europe's "feeble" response to the war.

"We are glad to play an honourable part in repelling aggression, but it will be a shabby business if we also have to bear an unfair share of the cost," a Mail editorial said.

Despite rising unemployment, high inflation and the worst spate of corporate disasters for decades Prime Minister John Major is riding high in opinion polls as the most popular premier since World War II leader Winston Churchill.

British victory over Argentina in the 1982 Falkland Islands war which buoyed the political fortunes of then prime minister Margaret Thatcher cost more than \$4 billion in today's terms.

Three times more troops are involved in the Gulf.

Defence Secretary Tom King told parliament Thursday that

40,000 British military personnel formed Britain's Gulf commitment codenamed "Operation Granby."

He said more than £1.25 billion (\$2.5 billion) had been spent, excluding lost equipment and ammunition used.

The runway-busting JP233 bomb dropped by Tornados to help establish air superiority over the Iraqi costs £1 million (\$2 million) each.

King announced Friday the latest tranche of £260 million (\$520 million) for the defence budget, pushing it up to £22.1 billion (\$44.2 billion).

Analysts said that if Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont spreads war costs over several years and borrows they need not take a great toll on the economy.

But the uncertainty of war has hit British business confidence with industrialists wary of making big decisions, a trend which analysts said could intensify recession.

The German Bundesbank's decision to raise interest rates has given less scope for Britain to bring down its own punishingly high bank base interest rate, held at 14 per cent to fight inflation and defend the pound sterling.

The still relatively high rate was cut last October from 15 per cent, the level at which it had stood for a year.

Top U.S. arms makers plan large layoffs

CLAYTON, Missouri (AP) — Workers faced layoffs at two top defence contractors Friday in the face of government weapons cuts, but spokesman said new tank orders from the Middle East saved some jobs.

General Dynamics Corp. plans to layoff about 1,200 workers this year at three tank-making plants, company officials said Friday.

It's the second round of layoff notices in less than a month for the nation's second-biggest defence contractor.

Last month the company laid off about 4,000 aerospace workers after Defence Secretary Dick Cheney cancelled the development of the navy's A-12 jet because of cost overruns and delays.

Pittsburgh-based Westinghouse laid off 1,200 employees from its electronic systems group, citing Cheney's announcement.

Westinghouse was a subcontractor for General Dynamics and McDonnell Douglas Corp., the primary contractors for the A-12 programme. Westinghouse has to supply radar and a device called the combined function infrared set for the new Stealth jet.

The layoffs announced Friday by General Dynamics will be completed by September 1991. They had long been expected, said Don Gilleland, a spokesman for the land systems division based in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The division operates two plants and employs about 7,000 people.

"This is actually good news because a year ago we were looking at closing both plants and laying everyone off," Gilleland said. "But now we don't have to close either one and we're keeping most of the people working."



MUNICIPALITY OF GREATER AMMAN AMMAN TRANSPORT & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (Loan No. 2334 — JO)

SECOND EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE

The Municipality of Greater Amman announces the extension of the closing date of the Road Maintenance Equipment Tender until March 4, 1991.

Lloyd's cuts insurance rates for Gulf area

LONDON (AP) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market Friday sharply cut insurance rates for marine and air cargo going to the Gulf, reflecting optimism that the war won't cause widespread damage to commercial aircraft and ships.

For marine cargo going to Qatar, Bahrain and other Gulf ports, the rates were cut to one per cent of the value of the cargo from two per cent.

Rates for marine cargo going to Iranian ports were cut to 0.75 per cent from two per cent.

Marine cargo rates for Saudi Arabian Red Sea ports and Jeddah were cut to 0.125 per cent from 0.25 per cent.

For Israeli Mediterranean ports, marine cargo rates were cut to 0.25 per cent from 0.5 per cent, and marine cargo rates for Israeli Red Sea ports and Jordan were cut to 0.25 per cent from 0.375 per cent.

Israeli air cargo rates were cut to 0.15 per cent and 0.20 per cent from 0.25 per cent.

His remarks before the House Banking Committee followed an

Greenspan warns of deep slump in U.S. if war runs for more than three months

The manufacturing sector, which has shed 900,000 jobs in the past two years, lost 69,000 positions in January after a 45,000 December job loss. Large losses were recorded in construction and car-related industries, the department said.

Further declines in factory employment probably are ahead.

Eastern Airlines' recent collapse put 18,000 people out of work, and Trans World Airlines is cutting about 2,500 from its workforce.

"The worst is yet to come," said Michael Neimira, an economist at Mitsubishi Bank Ltd.

Employment figures typically lag behind a recovery. So even though there are signs the recession is abating — the 2.1 per cent drop in gross national product in late 1990 was less severe than expected, and the January index of leading indicators turned up wards for the first time in six months — many economists expect several more months of grim jobs data.

Romania begins crisis energy-saving steps

immediately.

The government appealed to both industrial and household consumers to save energy but officials said homes would get enough heat through the winter.

The government said in statements issued Thursday and Friday that crisis measures, which could include halting oil imports, were needed due to growing trade and balance of payments deficits, shrinking external gas supplies and the Gulf war.

The government has approved a crisis programme considering even a total halt in oil imports. It said it would come into effect

statement said.

The government imposed partial petrol rationing last month, limiting sales to 40 litres a month per car owner and charging double for extra fuel.

Romania's domestic oil and gas output covers only 35 per cent of its energy needs and the Gulf crisis has cut off oil imports from Iraq, which had agreed to pay off a \$1.7 billion debt to Bucharest in oil.

Romania ended 1990 with a \$1.5 billion hard currency trade deficit and a 1.7 billion roubles trade deficit with eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

If oil imports were halted, the

hardest-hit sector would be Romania's refining and petrochemical industry.

Built up under executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, the petrochemical industry is capable of processing up to 34 million tonnes of oil a year — far exceeding domestic needs.

Popescu said the refineries would close down partially, but added: "We do not intend to stop production completely."

To add to Romania's economic problems, the Soviet Union which in the past supplied eight per cent of Romania's oil imports, is now restricting exports.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special issue No. 2



Drawing of Feb. 2, 1991

Holder of ticket No. **80288**
Wins JD 40,000

Holder of ticket No. **74377**
Wins JD 7,500

Holder of ticket No. **14989**
Wins JD 4,000

Holder of ticket No. **18678**
Wins JD 3,500

Holder of ticket No. **91697**
Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **29309**
Wins JD 2,000

Holder of ticket No. **36006**
Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **36399**
Wins JD 1,000

Ticket numbers **48924 86101 11894 34154** win JD 300 each

Ticket numbers **67458 78764 85852 10745** win JD 200 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

8194 4220 9521 Win JD 50 each

2464 7228 8971 Win JD 20 each

5617 4991 Win JD 50 each

0983 8510 Win JD 20 each

050 654 Win JD 10 each

60 45 Win JD 6 each

10,000 ticket ending with **8** Win JD 3 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

Fifty covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in **847 014 912 842 396** Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the Special issue number 1 of Jan. 17, 1991



Next Draw takes place on February 17, 1991

First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

Soviet army patrol beats Lithuanian man

Yeltsin's Radio Russia muzzled

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A liberal radio station said Saturday that Soviet state broadcasting authorities had cut it off from a major audience after it had angered President Mikhail Gorbachev with its coverage of the Baltics.

A spokesman for Radio Russia, whose programmes reflect the liberal views of Russian populist leader Boris Yeltsin, said the radio had been barred from access to the main frequencies used by most Soviet listeners.

Spokesman Sergei Pustovoitov said the move stemmed from a complaint by Gorbachev to broadcasting chief Leonid Kravchenko about the radio's coverage of the army crackdown in Lithuania on Jan. 13 in which 13 unarmed civilians were killed.

"The president asked Kravchenko 'how is it that on main frequencies there is anti-Soviet broadcasting?'. He said,

The move, which was certain to sour further the bad relations between Yeltsin and Gorbachev, underscored the Kremlin leader's shift to the conservative camp as problems in the country defied easy solutions.

Communist Party hardliners, capitalising on Gorbachev's shift, indicated that they were readying their forces for an offensive against liberals after a long time on the retreat.

The party surrendered its monopoly on power a year ago but made a comeback in recent months as Gorbachev, party general secretary as well as state president, moved to the right.

Russia's hardline Communist leader, Ivan Polozkov, in comments reported Saturday, said there could now no longer be any question of a multi-party system being established.

"Our pseudo-democratic trample on the constitution and kindle ethnic conflicts. The anti-Communist movement readily supports international capital. All this is done under the flag of saving perestroika." Polozkov said in a speech at a meeting of the party leadership last Thursday.

"There can be no talk now about any multi-party system. There is the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union), which upholds Socialist perestroika, and there are leaders with one political countenance — anti-Communism," he said.

Central Committee Secretary Oleg Shenin, calling for a purge of the CPSU and radicals in party ranks, said at the same meeting:

"There are many instances when Communists and also party organisations do not consider it necessary to abide by the rules of the CPSU and try, without permission, to modify them according to their own reasoning."

Gorbachev, in an apparent bid to display moderation after bloodshed in the Baltics, Friday ordered the creation of delegations for talks with Baltic leaders.

But Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar told Balfax News Agency that a subsequent meeting of the Federation Council, which groups central and republic leaders, had been a difficult

one for the Baltic republics.

Savisaar quoted Deputy Defence Minister Valentin Varennikov as saying at the meeting that the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — had "become a bastion of Western ideology and the hotbed for far-reaching American strategic plans."

TASS News Agency said speakers at the meeting cited anti-constitutional acts and violations of human rights as being responsible for the conflict in the Baltic republics, which are seeking to regain pre-World War II independence.

Liberal suspicions over Gorbachev's move to the right have been fuelled by a decision to send troops onto the streets of Moscow and other major cities in patrols and beat him, according to Azubalis.

The man was hospitalised with facial cuts and jaw injuries, Azubalis said.

Kremlin officials say the joint patrols, which began on Friday, are to strengthen the fight against common crime but many liberals say they are part of plans for creeping dictatorship aimed at stifling pro-democracy forces.

Meanwhile a joint patrol of Soviet police and soldiers beat a Lithuanian man just hours after the patrols went into effect, a parliamentary spokesman said Saturday.

It was the first reported violence involving the joint army-police patrols, which have been criticised by Baltic leaders as an attempt by the Kremlin to strengthen control over the breakaway republics.

The patrols began in major Soviet cities under orders from

Defence Minister Dimitri Yazov and Interior Minister Boris Pugo.

The Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman, Andrius Azubalis, told reporters at a press conference that four or five policemen and soldiers armed with automatic weapons stopped the 22-year-old man in downtown Vilnius at about 9 p.m. (1800 GMT) Friday.

The patrol demanded the man's identification papers. But before he could produce his documents, the soldiers and police knocked him to the ground and beat him, according to Azubalis.

The man was hospitalised with facial cuts and jaw injuries, Azubalis said.

In recent weeks, Soviet troops occupied key buildings in the Baltics and intensified efforts to round up draft evaders. They have conducted random searches on the streets of the capital and at roadblocks around the city.

More than 15 draft-age Lithuanian men have disappeared from the streets and are believed to have been taken by the army, according to the parliament's press office.

Since declaring independence last March 11, Lithuania's legislature has contended that citizens of the republic are not required to serve in the Soviet military.

The draft age in the Soviet Union is 18 to 28.

In another incident in Vilnius Friday, an army captain allegedly entered a house looking for a conscript and hit the conscript's father in the head, Azubalis said. It was unclear whether the captain was part of a joint patrol.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Delay could undermine nuclear pact — U.S. negotiator

GENEVA (R) — U.S. Ambassador Richard Burt, head of the American delegation negotiating a reduction of nuclear weapons with the Soviet Union, has said years of work could be lost if a treaty was not concluded quickly.

"If we fail to agree by the end of February, there is a very real risk that the whole thing could unravel," Burt said on his return from superpower talks in Washington.

Burt told Reuters he expected to finish the treaty by the end of this month, as President George Bush and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's predecessor, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Nazarkin's view was that the two sides had different interpretations on what was agreed in Houston.

Both Burt and Nazarkin said that the main issues agreed there regarding Soviet SS-18 heavy missiles, Soviet battlefield bombers and U.S. sales of Trident missiles to Britain — had once again been settled.

Only technical questions remained, but it still had to be seen whether the two sides would be able to push forward and eliminate all their differences in what most analysts say is a less friendly atmosphere.

"We're at an important crossroads. We're at a point where either we can finish in the near future or we won't finish in a very long time," Burt said.

The crucial question is whether the two governments have the political will to settle this early on."

He added: "We don't know the direction of future events in the Soviet Union, and I think the START treaty would be a very useful insurance policy."

"For the first seven years of this treaty, the Soviet Union will have to eliminate from its arsenal

Pakistan quake toll may surpass 200

ISLAMABAD (R) — The official death toll from Pakistan's most powerful earthquake in recent years rose to 175 Saturday, and government officials said it was likely to surpass 200.

Four remote mountainous districts in North West Frontier province, which borders Afghanistan, were hit by the quake early Friday. Officials said several hundred people were injured and hundreds of houses collapsed or were damaged.

The authorities said 175 bodies had been found by Saturday morning but they feared the death toll would rise as information trickled in from distant snow-bound areas of the province.

Army helicopters were flying medical supplies, food and clothing to the region.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was expected to visit one of the worst-hit areas in Chitral district later Saturday.

This is a warning from Allah to Muslims to get together to fight infidels," one told the Friday prayer congregation in an Islamabad mosque.

Seismologists in Peshawar, the provincial capital, recorded the quake on the Richter Scale. A 1974 quake in the region registered 6.3 and killed 5,000 people.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.

The area is frequently shaken by tremors that can do severe damage in villages where houses are generally made of mud brick. Most of the casualties were caused by collapsing houses, officials said.

Last Oct. 25, a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed 13 people. One measuring 5.7 in 1981 killed 220 people in the same area.

Ground rescue parties have been sent in but access is difficult because of snow and the mountainous terrain, the officials said.

The region has had unusually heavy snow this winter and roads to many stricken villages are blocked, they said.

Two villages in the Kohistan area of Swat district were "completely destroyed," an official said in Peshawar. He said casualty figures were not available immediately because the area was snowbound.

Seventy-five deaths were reported from Swat, Chitral and the Dir district of North West Frontier Province. Official Bakhtar News Agency said 17 eastern and northern provinces were hit by the quake.

Afghanistan officials said relief workers had been unable to reach most of the affected provinces because of deep snow.

Officials put the epicentre 200 kilometres northwest of the city in the Hindukush.